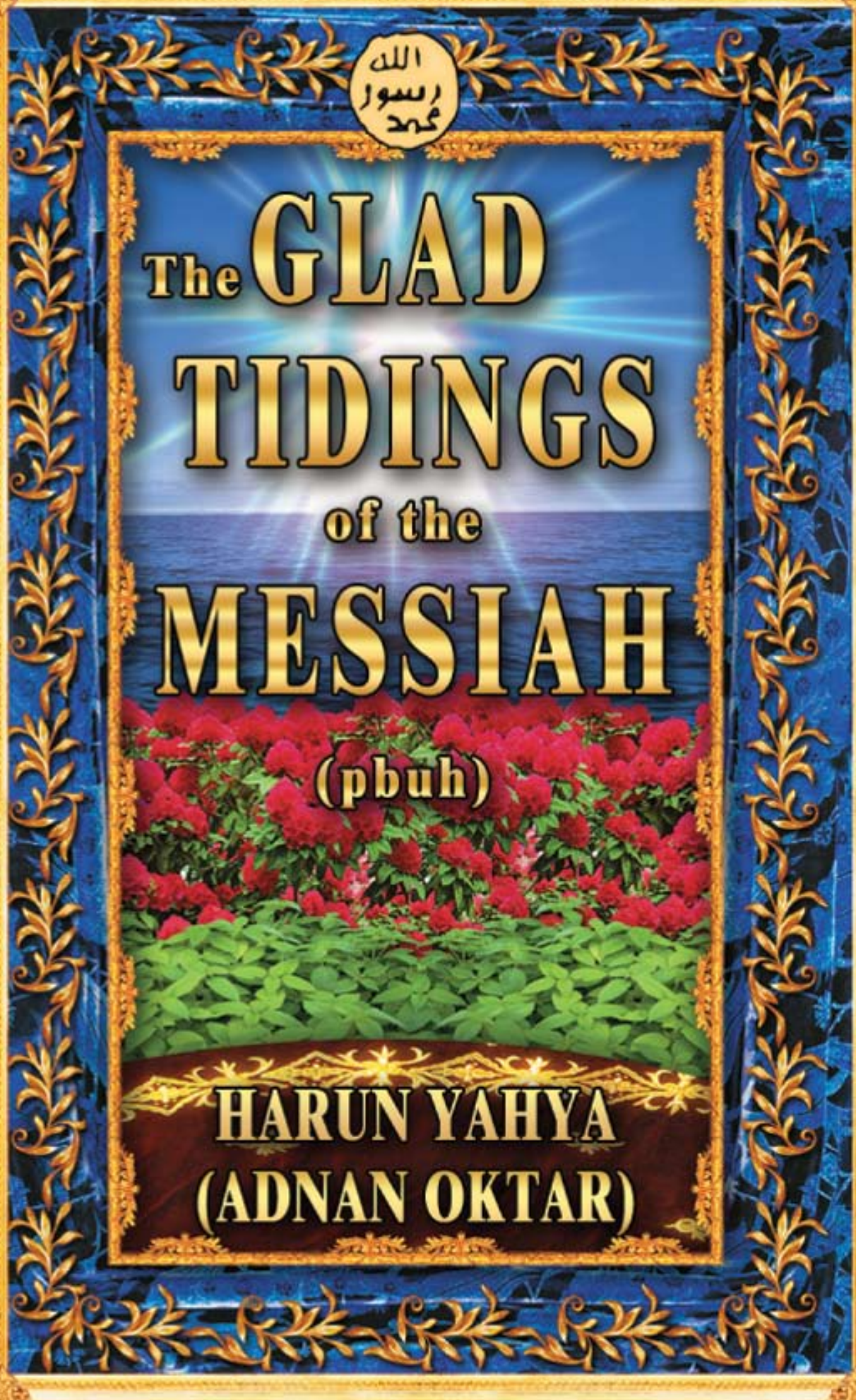

الله
رسول
محمد
The GLAD TIDINGS of the MESSIAH
(pbuh)
HARUN YAHYA
(ADNAN OKTAR)

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh), whom Allah supported with superior wisdom, is set apart from the other Prophets in several aspects, among them that he, by Allah's Will, spoke even in the cradle, and that he was the vehicle for countless miracles while he was in this world. That his status is different also can be deduced from the fact that he was raised to Allah's Presence and that in the Qur'an Allah indicates strongly his second coming.

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming is a very great gift of Allah for all humanity. For the first time ever in their lives, all people alive at that time will see a Prophet of superior human qualities.

While reading this book, the reader will come to know of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) miraculous life and realize that we live in a very special time. Given that his second coming will be an extraordinary, miraculous, and metaphysical event that will affect the whole world, all believers should prepare and mobilize to welcome him in the best possible way.

All of the signs indicate that the second coming will take place soon, so there is no time to waste.

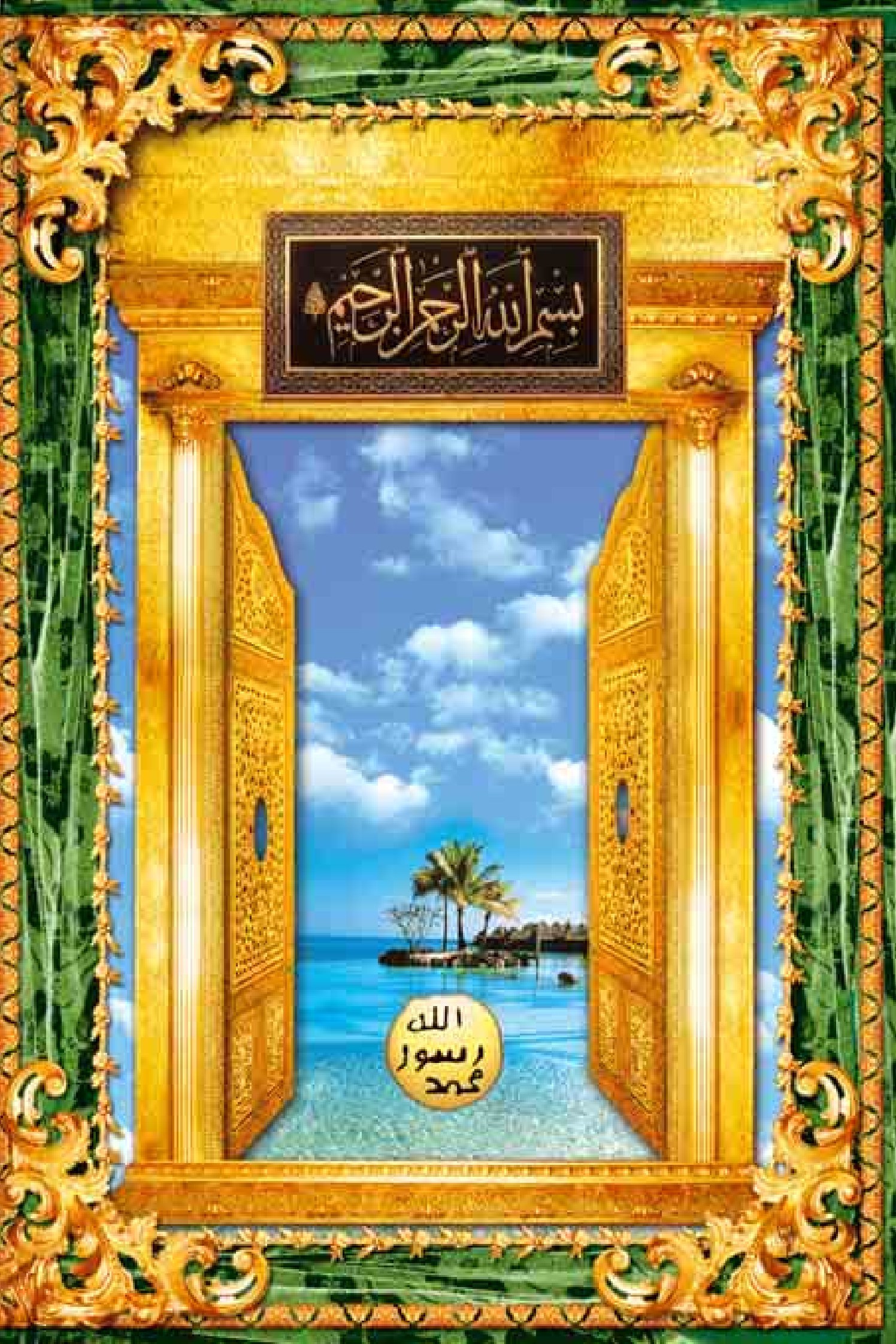


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adnan Oktar, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on faith-related, scientific and political issues. He is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

All of the author's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's existence and unity and the Hereafter; and to expose irreligious systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies. His more than 300 works, translated into 63 different languages, enjoy a wide readership across the world.

By the will of Allah, the books of Harun Yahya will be a means through which people in the twenty-first century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.


بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الله
رسول
محمد

To the Reader

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, Allah's existence—over the last 150 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the opportunity to read only one of our books, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn Allah's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning Allah's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensures that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of Allah. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

THE GLAD TIDINGS OF THE MESSIAH (PBUH)

HARUN YAHYA
(ADNAN OKTAR)

About the Author

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, Adnan Oktar was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied fine arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

Harun Yahya's works, translated into 63 different languages, constitute a collection for a total of more than 55,000 pages with 40,000 illustrations.

His pen-name is a composite of the names Harun (Aaron) and Yahya (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their peoples' lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the Final Scripture) and Prophet Muhammad (saas), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet [saas]), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of irreligious ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet (saas), who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's existence and unity and the Hereafter; and to expose irreligious systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America,



England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, Spain to Brazil, Malaysia to Italy, France to Bulgaria and Russia. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Chinese, Swahili, Hausa, Dhivehi (spoken in Maldives), Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, Indonesian, Bengali, Danish and Swedish.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

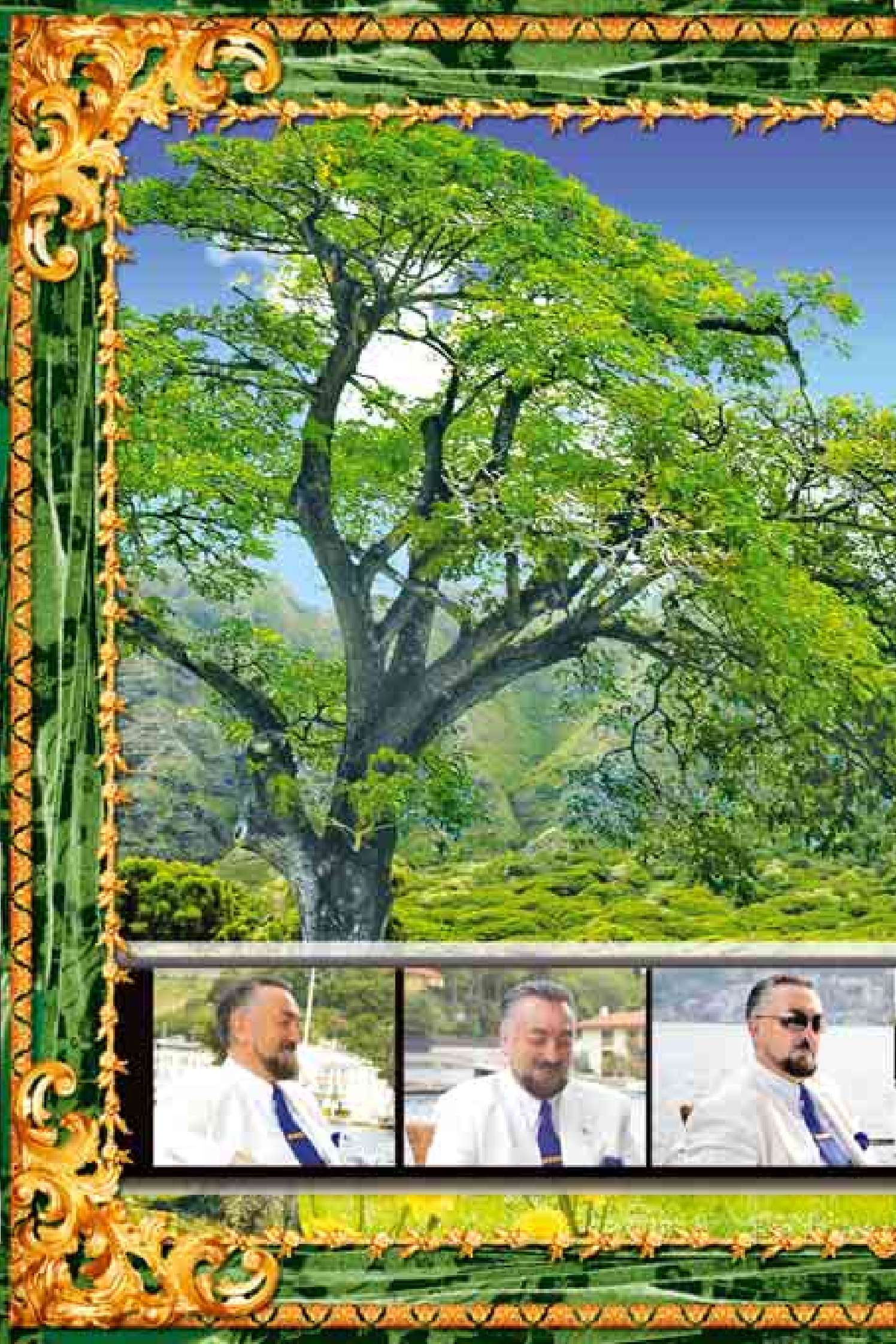
This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for Allah's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of Allah, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological confusion, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

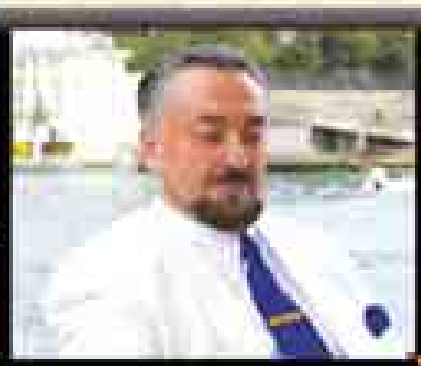
In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of Allah, these books will be a means through which people in the twenty-first century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.



THE GLAD TIDINGS OF THE MESSIAH (PBUH)

HARUN YAHYA
(ADNAN OKTAR)





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All translations from the Qur'an are from *The Noble Qur'an: a New Rendering of its Meaning in English* by Hajj Abdalhaqq and Aisha Bewley, published by Bookwork, Norwich, UK. 1420 CE/1999 AH.

A phrase from the Qur'an is referred to as an *ayah* in Arabic, and an *ayah* is the word of Allah. Here "verse" is used for *ayah*. However, this should not be confused with a Biblical verse, as Muslims do not consider the Bible to be the definitive word of Allah.

All the passages from the Gospel and the Torah are taken from the New International Bible Version

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CONTENTS

Introduction.....10

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh).....16

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Life.....60

The Qur'anic Account of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Ascent to Allah's Presence.....114

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) Will Come Again.....128

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Appearance in the Hadith.....158

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Second Coming in the Hadiths Literature.....162

Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Return According to the Bible.....180

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Delivered the Good News of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Second Coming to the Muslims.....186

Welcoming the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) in the Best Possible Way.....206

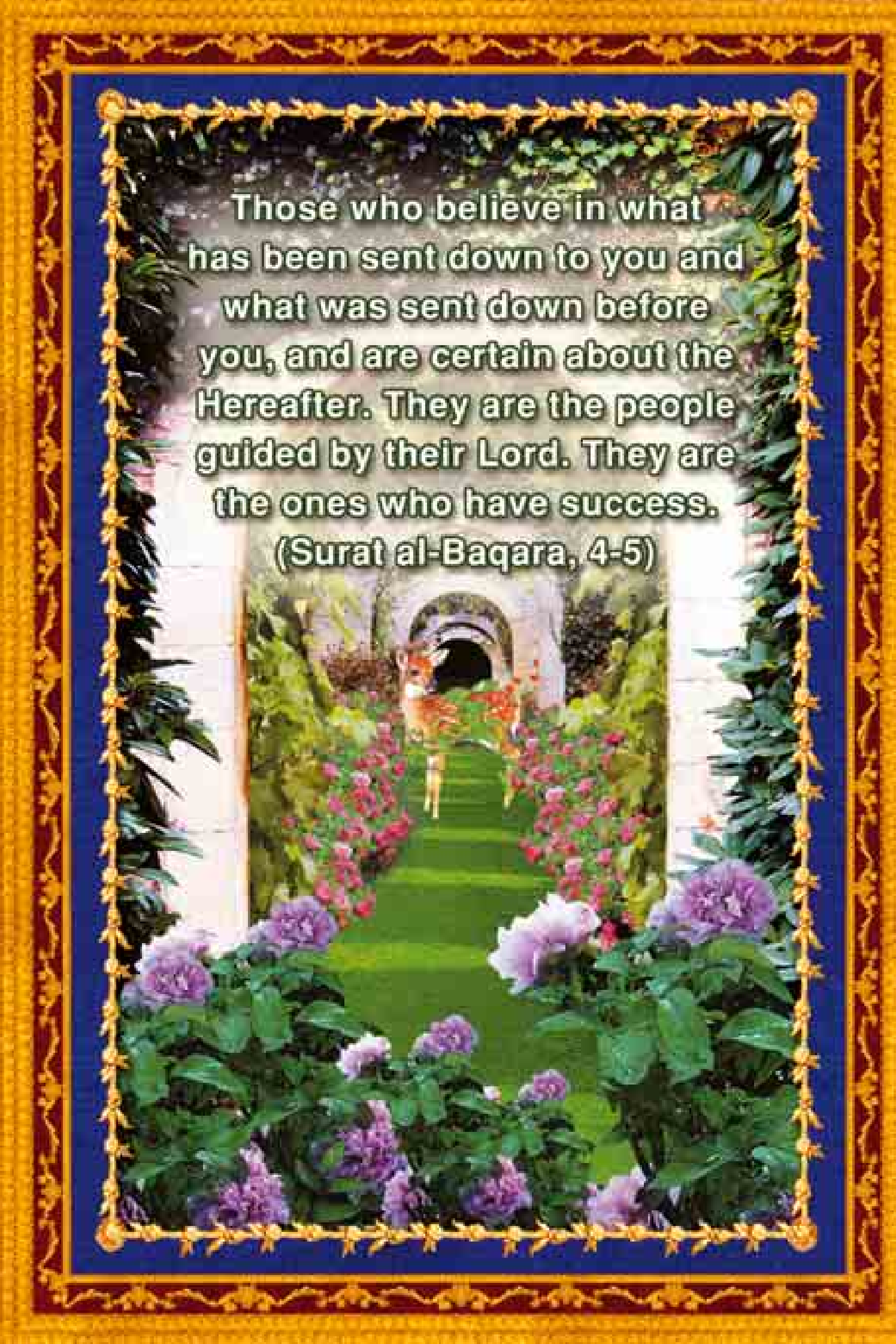
Passages From the Gospel and the Torah that Agree with the Qur'an.....218

The Deception of Evolution.....308

INTRODUCTION

Prophets and Messengers have been sent to all nations throughout history to teach the core concepts of the same religion: to believe in the one and only Allah, to abandon idolatry, to live and do good deeds only for Allah's good pleasure, to have faith in Allah and to seek His help alone, and to be virtuous. The principles of faith that they have taught to humanity have always been the same, despite some slight differences in practical matters according to place and time. For instance, the Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him)1 did not bring a different religion, and the religion revealed to Prophet Moses (pbuh), the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), and Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), the last prophet, is the same. *(In other words, the Torah sent to Moses and the Gospel sent to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) as guiding lights for people, have been tampered over time and so are no longer true to their respective original revelations.[2])* In one verse, Allah tells believers not to distinguish between revealed religions:

> **Say: "We believe in Allah and what has been sent down to us; what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes; and what Moses, Jesus, and all the Prophets were given by their Lord. We do not differentiate between any of them. We are Muslims submitted to Him." (Surah Al 'Imran, 84)**


Those who believe in what has been sent down to you and what was sent down before you, and are certain about the Hereafter. They are the people guided by their Lord. They are the ones who have success.
(Surat al-Baqara, 4-5)

Allah reveals the following in another verse:

He has laid down the same religion for you as He enjoined on Noah, that which We have revealed to you and which We enjoined upon Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "Establish the religion and do not make divisions in it." What you call the idolaters to follow is very hard for them. Allah chooses for Himself anyone He wills and guides to Himself those who turn to Him. (Surat ash-Shura, 13)

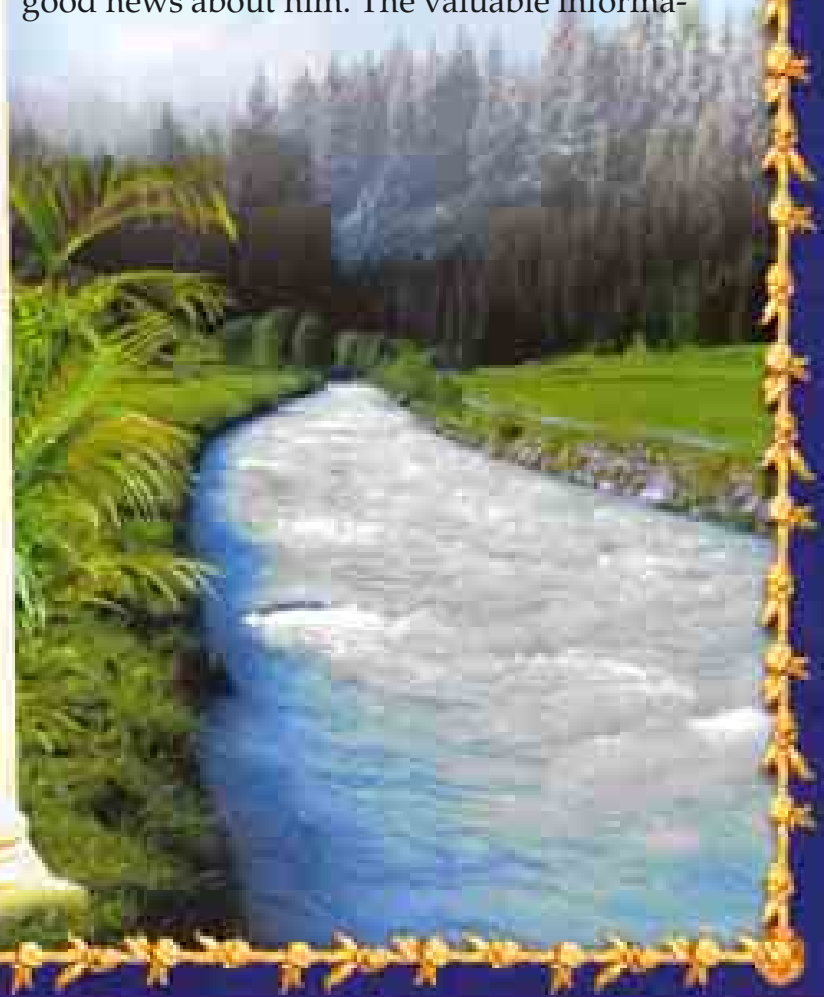
Our Lord, Who has sent His religion to all nations, has cautioned all of their inhabitants through those He honored by choosing as Prophets. Every human being who has received the call to the true religion will be held accountable for how he or she responded to it.

The lives of Allah's chosen Messengers contain many messages and lessons for all people, especially when we study their encounters, their troubles, and their great struggles. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is cited in the Qur'an as an example for people to follow, because of how he conducted his life and his struggle, and because of his great virtue.

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) birth, life, and ascension to Allah's Presence are all miracles that Allah reveals in the Qur'an in some detail. Although He reveals the narratives of many Prophets, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), whom Allah supported with superior wisdom, is set apart from the others in several aspects, among them that he spoke even in the cradle, and that he was the vehicle for countless miracles while he was in this world. That his status is different also can be deduced from the fact that he was raised to Allah's Presence and that the Qur'an indicates strongly his second coming.

The Glad Tidings of the Messiah (pbuh)

The book seeks to analyze the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) life and struggle, as well as his virtue and character, closely and to spread the good news of his second coming in light of the relevant Qur'anic verses and hadiths (the sayings and teachings of our Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace)). Our Lord gives important signs about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the future *(the time between the Qur'an's revelation and the Day of Judgment)* in the Qur'an, and our Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) revealed much good news about him. The valuable informa-



tion about the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) great struggle after his second coming, provided by the renowned Islamic scholar Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (1877-1960), is a glad tiding for all readers and should increase their excitement and lift their morale. All of this, as we said previously, shows that the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) creation was miraculous and that his life continued to be full of miracles.

While reading this book, the reader will come to know of his miraculous life, a blessing of our Lord, and realize that we live in a very special time. One purpose of this work, besides drawing attention to an important miracle revealed in the Qur'an, is to say a "practical" prayer in the hope of being present when the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), a praised Messenger who is lauded in the Qur'an many times, returns to this world. Given that his second coming will, by Allah's leave,be an extraordinary, miraculous, and metaphysical event that will affect the whole world, all believers should prepare and mobilize to welcome him in the best possible way. The excitement, love, and morale invested in these preparations will be an actual prayer, and those who do not prepare will feel great remorse when he returns. All of the signs indicate that the second coming will take place soon, so there is no time to waste.

THE PROPHET JESUS (PBUH)

The Messengers sent to warn and to give the good news to people faced many difficulties from the unbelievers, who wanted to prevent them from preaching Allah's religion. These unbelievers also thought that they could prevent people from following the Messengers' path by means of plots, slander, and persecution. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) endured everything that all of the other Messengers endured. For example, he was exposed to attacks from the idolatrous Roman occupying authorities and the dogmatic Jewish religious establishment. He fought against both of these powers, which were hostile to the true religion, although only a very few believers supported him.

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) miraculous birth, teaching of the true religion, all miracles led some of the people of his time to recognize him as the expected Messiah (pbuh), and they loved him for it. This love for him and his justified criticism of the religious elite led the leaders of the Roman occupation forces and the Jewish religious establishment to conspire against this noble man, and ultimately to attack him. Their attempt on his life was foiled when Allah raised him to His presence.

Before we proceed to examine the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) life and struggle in detail, it would be useful to know what the various sources say about him.

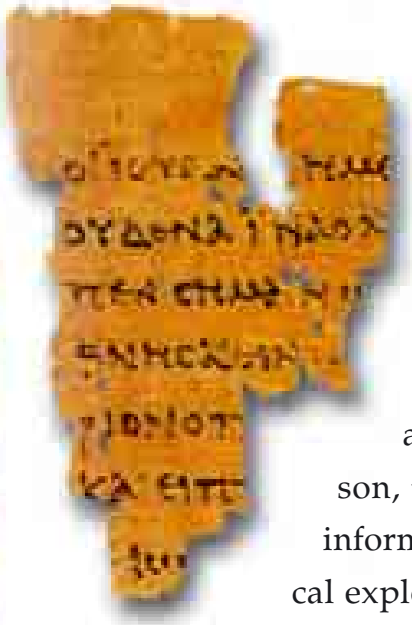
Sources about the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) life

Several sources relate the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) life. The primary source is the Qur'an, which has never been altered since its revelation and which contains no contradictions. For this reason, the information related by the other sources, which might have been altered since their original recording, will be used only insofar as they do not contradict the Qur'an. For any other matter not in conflict with the Qur'an, such as historical or archeological data, the Bible will be used as a reference along with other documents from that era. Other sources are the hadiths of our Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) and the explanations, views, and interpretations of Islamic scholars.

The Bible, another important source, also gives detailed information about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). However, over time it was tampered with and so lost its authenticity. As a result, it contains parts that are based on the true religion as well as parts that are wholly fabricated. For this reason, those parts that contain information about his life, teachings, and struggle, and which do not contradict the Qur'an, must be considered as important historic documents.

The earliest Gospel accounts are thought to have been written 30 to 40 years after the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), in 63 ce. However, these no longer exist. The oldest documents available date back to the third and fourth centuries. Paul's letters, which gave Christianity its present form, were written before the Gospel (52-63 ce).

Otherwise, such historians as Flavius Josephus (37-100? ce), Philo (20 bce-50) ce, and Tacitus (56-120 ce) have small chapters on the subject in their works. Even though they did not write much



The oldest written portion of the Gospel ever found (125 CE). The Gospel was written in Greek, which was spoken in the eastern portion of the Roman Empire.

about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) as a person, their works contain useful and detailed information about the era. Finally, archeological explorations and discoveries will be used to shed light on the era in which the Prophet Jesus lived and the events that took place during the time.

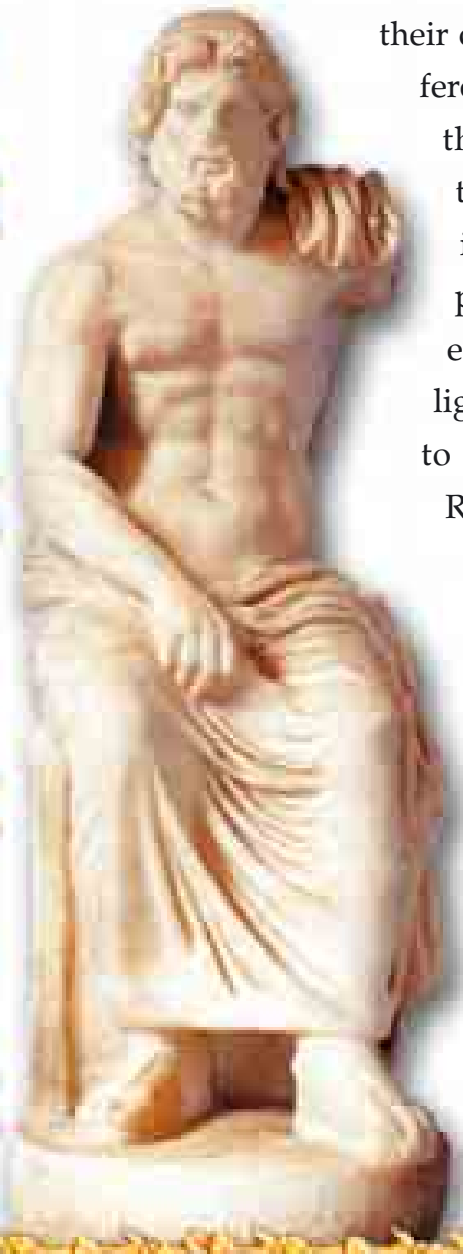
Palestine at the time of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh)

During the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) lifetime, the whole Mediterranean basin was under Roman rule and thus a domestic affair. The Roman Empire was at its peak, militarily as well as culturally. It had inherited both the ancient and the classical Greek civilizations and had built upon them, and architecture and the arts were at an advanced level. Not surprisingly, the Romans considered themselves superior to all other nations and tried to impose their way of life on the conquered lands.

The Roman religion was a deviant, idolatrous religion. The deities of Greek mythology had long been a part of Roman religion, albeit under different names. Many idols, symbolized by statues, were worshipped, and Jupiter was considered the highest-ranking godhead. By the first half of the second century ce, the power of the Roman emperors had become so absolute and consol-

idated that some later emperors claimed divinity during their own lives. Greek pagan religion was still widely practiced in Roman-ruled lands, and statues of Zeus, Hermes, and Venus were erected in the major cities' large public squares. Archaeology and literature of the time show that every city, suburb, and even house had its own different shrines complete with statues, icons, and a place dedicated to making offerings and worship. The Roman rulers used these pluralistic religions to further their own ambitions, and so did not interfere with them as long as they posed no threat to continued Roman rule. On the contrary, they encouraged these idolatrous beliefs by building temples and commissioning statues everywhere. For them, this deviant religion was a tool to inspire the masses to loyalty and a way to control them. Religion was an abstract concept that was only indirectly related to the world.

When the Romans encountered another culture, they would seek out similar idols and merge them into their own pantheon in order to es-



Zeus, a Greek mythological god and the counterpart of the Roman god Jupiter.



At the end of the first century CE, Rome controlled a great part of western Europe, North Africa, and western Asia. The empire was well served by a network of roads and harbors, which helped the spread of Christianity. (Above: The Roman Empire in 117 CE)

tablish Roman superiority. For such reasons, monotheistic Jews were forced to acknowledge Zeus as godhead, especially at the time of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who reigned from 175-63 bce. This led to great conflicts, for religious Jews responded negatively to such spiritual contamination and resolutely resisted the attempts to Rome's spreading of its idolatrous beliefs.

The Romans chose not to interfere with the Jews' internal affairs, especially their religious affairs, when they saw the Jews' devotion to their religion, which was very different from their own man-made religion. Throughout Roman rule in Palestine, the Jews were permitted to practice their faith and the Temple, their spiritual center, continued be administered by the Jewish religious elite. Rome also permitted the Sanhedrin Council, the Jews' highest religious priestly tribunal, to continue its activities.



The Greek temple in Paestum, Italy (550 BCE)



A picture depicting the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Even under Roman rule, the Sanhedrin could prosecute and punish a Jew according to Jewish law. The Roman governors appointed to rule the area suppressed all rebellions with an iron fist and showed no leniency when collecting taxes. For this reason, they tolerated the collaborating Jewish leadership and ruthlessly punished any rebellion against them.

The small Jewish nation in which the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) lived bordered the great empires of the ancient world, which were always at war with one another: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Syria. It did not survive for long as an independent nation, and from the expulsion of Babylon (586-38 bce) onwards, the Jews lived under foreign rule. In the Hellenistic era,[3] they first came under Egyptian, then Syrian, and finally Roman rule. Only once were they able to establish a Jewish kingdom. The Maccabees, a

family of priests, began a rebellion (167-42 bce) that led to a Jewish kingdom that survived for 80 years. Its ruling family, the Hasmonaeans, became widely influential, but their kingdom collapsed because of fierce competition for its leadership. The Roman general Pompey, who obtained the backing of the warring factions, entered Palestine by taking Jerusalem in 63 bce and confined the Jewish state to Judea. The Hasmonaean King, Hyrcanus II, enjoyed limited autonomy under the rule of the Roman governor. From that day on, resentment toward this idolatrous government began to grow in the Jewish community. In 37 bce, Rome abolished this kingdom and appointed Hyrcanus II's son-in-law, Herod I, as the new "King of Judea."

The Era of King Herod I

The Roman leadership's primary concern in Palestine was to collect taxes. An excessively high tax rate was imposed on the Jewish community, and Rome built a state machinery loyal to itself. Herod I (73-4 bce), known for his admiration of Hellenistic culture, managed to have himself appointed the King of Jews with Rome's help and by taking advantage of Roman weaknesses and the changing landscape of power since Caesar's assassination (44 bce). He expanded the Jewish province's borders to cover all of Palestine and actively promoted Hellenistic culture in order to gain Rome's favor. In addition, he advocated Hellenism's architectural and artistic aspects and wished to impose its materialistic worldview on the Jewish masses. Herod I had Solomon's Temple restored, in order to win popular Jewish support, and commissioned many statues and works of architecture. As a result of his popularity, he became known as "Herod the Great." However, de-



Herod was a tyrant who killed many innocent people. Fra Angelico's (1387-1455) painting, entitled "The Massacre of the Innocents," depicts Herod's era. The painting dates from 1451-53 and is on display at Florence's San Marco Museum.

spite all of the spectacular buildings, religious Jews resented him because he had become a collaborator and a despot.

Herod I ruled his province with Roman support from 37 bce to 4 bce. After his death, Rome disregarded the Jews' appeals to end Herod's government and divided the province between his sons. Rome appointed one son, Herod Antipas, as tetrarch of Galilee, which he ruled from 4 bce to 40 ce. According to historical sources, the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) ministry coincides with the rule of this man, who was at least his father's equal in terms of tyranny. This is why the area's sociopolitical conditions are important to us. Galilee's social fabric had changed dramatically since its colonial occupation. The Jews scoffed at the area, and its civilization and



According to the Gospel of Matthew, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was born while Herod the Great ruled Palestine (37-4 BCE). The Herodium palace-fortress, built for Herod, was located 8 km south of Jerusalem and comprised a palace, where Herod himself is buried. His tomb has not yet been discovered.





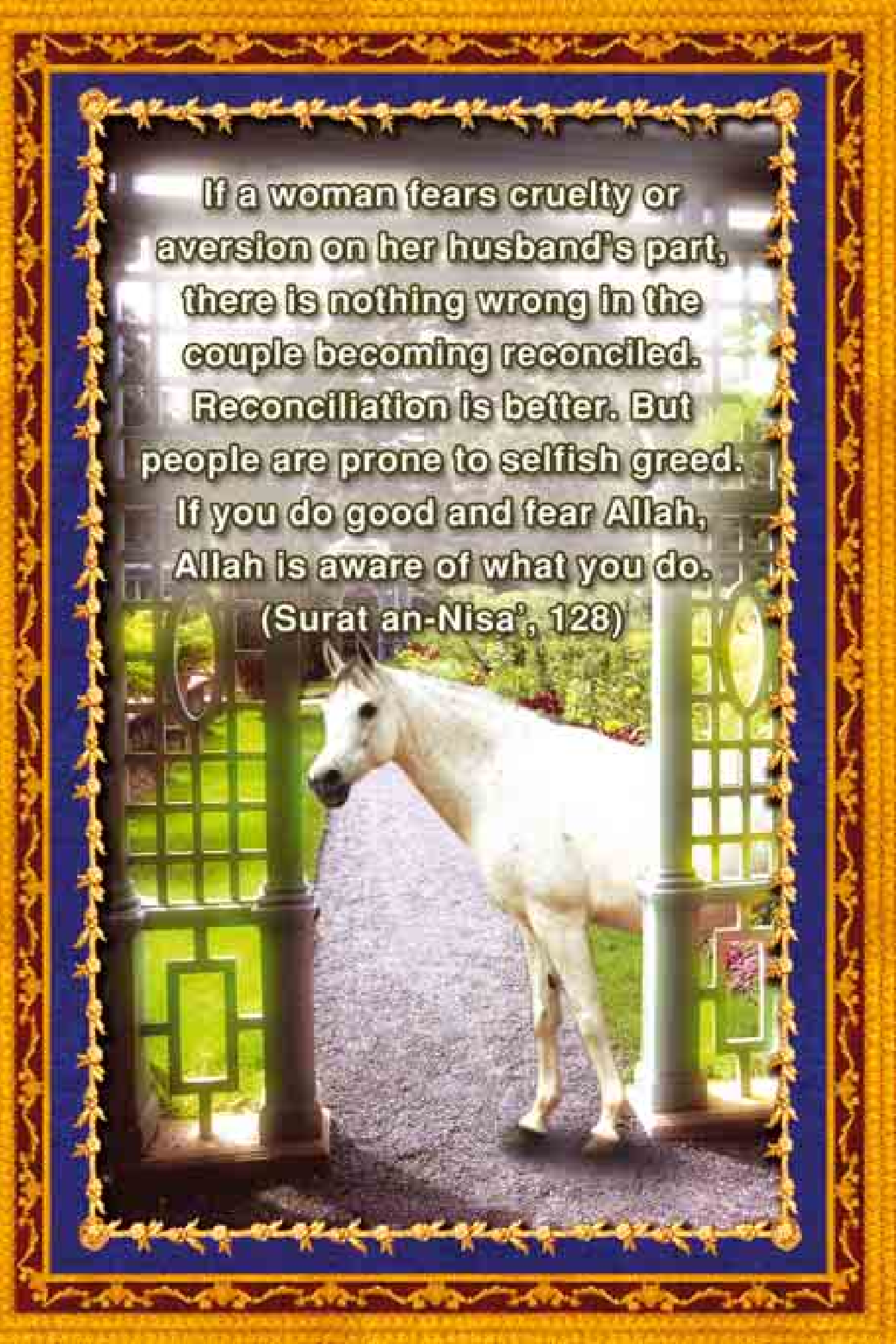
culture, particularly Herod Antipas' court, as well as the great palaces and some quarters of the town, were under Hellenistic influence. The religion-based traditions of those Jews who spoke Aramaic were far removed from Hellenistic culture.

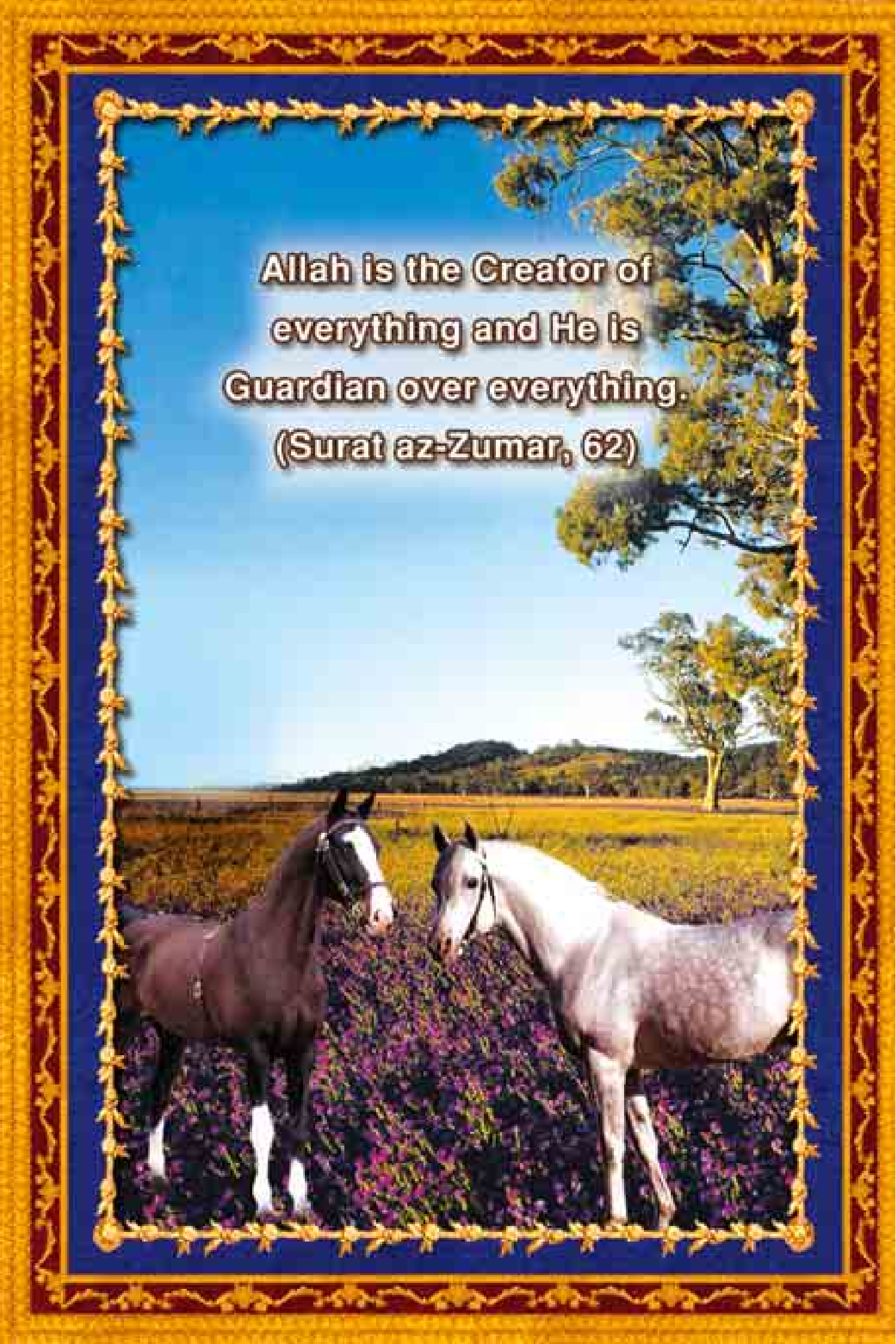
As mentioned earlier, the Romans traditionally did not interfere with the Jews' religious affairs. But not all Roman governors adhered to this principle. Pontius Pilate in particular, the procurator at the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) time, was one of them. His government (26-36 ce) was tainted by tyranny and cruelty, both of which eventually caused him to be removed from office.

Jewish Sects at the Time of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh)

Another problem that the Jews had to face was internal sectarian strife. Until the second century bce, such strife was unheard of. However, in the last century before the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), the Jewish people became fragmented and many different views on the essence and true meaning of Judaism emerged. Besides the books of the Torah and the different interpretations of religious rules, political factors and Rome played an important part in this developing sectarianism. Looking at the records of that time, especially those of the famous Jewish historian Josephus Flavius, it can be said that many schools of thought developed among the Jewish people.

Four schools of thought became particularly prominent. One of these was the Sadducees, who were allied with the Roman government, gradually became the ruling class with Rome's support, and enjoyed great wealth. This school of thought became dominant among the wealthy Jews and was comparable to a political party. Their religious rules were derived from the first five books


If a woman fears cruelty or
aversion on her husband's part,
there is nothing wrong in the
couple becoming reconciled.
Reconciliation is better. But
people are prone to selfish greed.
If you do good and fear Allah,
Allah is aware of what you do.
(Surat an-Nisa', 128)


Allah is the Creator of
everything and He is
Guardian over everything.
(Surat az-Zumar, 62)

of the Torah, which were interpreted according to their practical meanings, for the Sadducees did not accept such fundamental tenets of religion as life after death, Hell, and Paradise. Confronting them were the "conservative" Pharisees, who disagreed with the Sadducees' religious views, opposed their false beliefs, and generally led a more modest way of life. The Pharisee school was founded by religious Jews who played an important part in preserving and defending the Jewish faith. Later on, the Pharisees also became fragmented.

Another group was formed by the Zealots, who advocated armed resistance against Rome and its Jewish collaborators. They began to carry out assassinations and acts of violence against those members of the Jewish and Roman leadership who they considered to be opponents of Allah's rule. However, this rebellious movement was soon suppressed. Finally there were the Essenes, who devoted themselves to worship and meditation in caves and who would, in our own time, become well-known through their writings (the Dead Sea Scrolls), which were discovered in 1947. According to some researchers, the Essenes were a branch of the religious Pharisees. As will be seen in subsequent chapters, there seems to be a consensus among some researchers that the Essenes were closely linked to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh).

According to historical sources and some Biblical passages, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was engaged in a great struggle against these idolatrous and heathen movements of the time and preached Allah's religion by means of enlightening examples. It will be useful to examine these movements' views in order to understand the disorderly environment in which they existed.

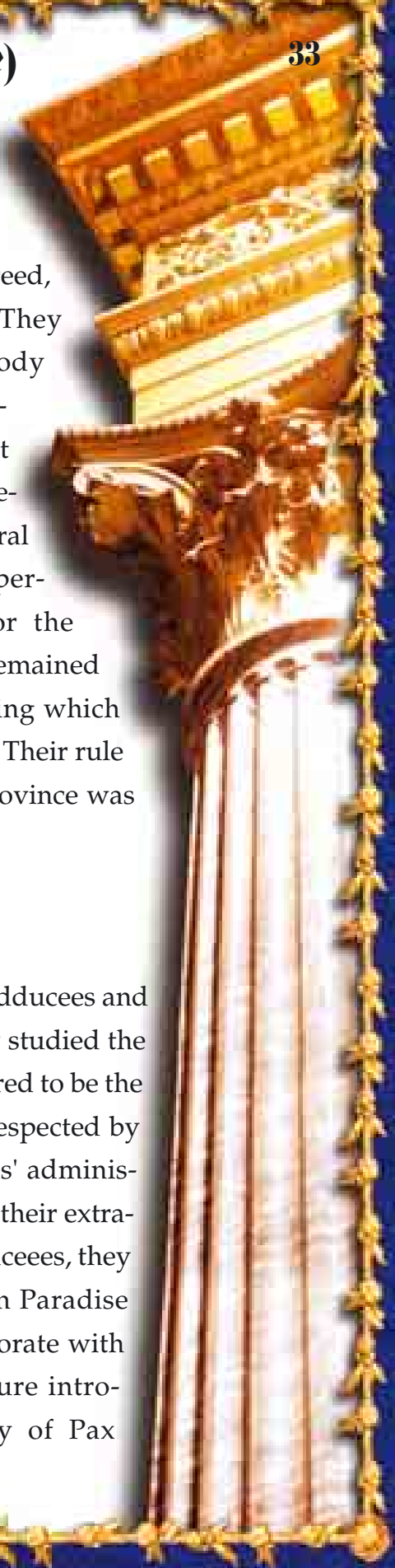
The Glad Tidings of the Messiah (pbuh)

The Sadducees

An examination of these movements reveals that the Sadducees were the most influential and highest sect in terms of social status, as well as the only movement that held a worldview completely contradictory to the message delivered by the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Even though the available sources do not explicitly state so, it is highly probable that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) vehemently opposed this movement. In the Gospel of Matthew, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) warns the believers of the Sadducees' views:

"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." (Matthew 16:6)

This group, which consisted of about 7,000 to 8,000 people, claimed to be the descendents of the high priests, collaborated with Rome, were responsible for the Temple in Jerusalem, and supervised the sacrifice system in place at the Temple.[4] As they were in charge of all of the Temple's activities, they considered themselves a superior class and would not do any other work. As a result, they acquired a great deal of wealth, political privilege, and status, and also passed their respective jobs on to their sons. While they wished to continue this legacy that guaranteed their dominant position, they



also adopted Hellenistic traditions and tried to spread them among society.

Furthermore, they had their own creed, which could be termed "materialistic." They believed that the soul died when the body died; that there was no afterlife; that angels, Hell, Paradise, and destiny did not exist; and that worldly matters were independent of matters of faith. Rome's cultural influence is evident here. Due to this perverse system of faith, they strove for the worldly life and political power. They remained in power for a relatively long time, during which they fought the other schools of thought. Their rule only came to an end when the Jewish province was abolished in 70 ce.

The Pharisees

The Pharisees disagreed with the Sadducees and diverged from them in many ways. They studied the Torah and other scriptures, were considered to be the authority in matters of faith, and were respected by the people. They opposed the Sadducees' administration of the Temple and criticized all of their extra-religious activities. Contrary to the Sadduceees, they believed in the soul, the afterlife, and in Paradise and Hell. Moreover, they did not collaborate with Rome and rejected the Hellenistic culture introduced by Rome. However, the policy of Pax

Romana, introduced by Rome to create an atmosphere of peace throughout the Roman Empire, suited them too.

In reality, the Pharisees were a deeply religious group of Jews who fought irreligion. They tried to preserve and propagate religion in the Jewish community under the term "verbal tradition." They worked to introduce the Mosaic law and even fought in this cause. Some historians suggest that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) must have been together with these religious people, as his teachings are closest to the Pharisees' views. Although he warned and reminded the Pharisees several times, he also befriended and ate with them (Luke 7:36, 11:37, 14:1).

The Zealots

The most active group after the Sadducees and the Pharisees were the Zealots, most of whom had originally been Phariseees. Their resentment of the Roman occupation drove them to radicalism and, eventually, to form this new movement. The Zealots, who believed that an armed uprising against the Roman occupation was necessary, established a resistance movement and, using guerilla tactics, assassinated Romans as well as Jewish collaborators. They even organized large-scale uprisings. One of their branches became known as the Sicarii (Dagger-men) at the time of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) because of their dagger attacks.

This group, which emerged at the time of Herod the Great, advocated a different political view. Under the leadership of Judas the Galilean, a messianic figure, the Zealots started an uprising when Judea was brought under direct Roman rule in 6 ce and a new tax regime was introduced. According to them, acknowledging the pagan rule of the Roman emperor meant rejecting Allah's authority in favor of slavery.



Ruins of the Roman Empire in Rome.

The first uprising was quashed quickly. Most of the rebels died, but those who survived continued their resistance. The next uprising turned into the first Jewish revolt (66-70 ce), which ended in a mass suicide of the Jews holed up in their fortress in Masada. At the time of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), many such different movements expecting the Messiah (pbuh) emerged and managed to attract large followings. However, the Romans took serious precautions against these movements and increased their control and oppression. If they encountered anything that could incite the people, they reacted hard and without mercy. Later on, the Jews used the Romans' sensitivity in this regard against the Prophet Jesus (pbuh).

The Zealots also took an interest in the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) ministry, for they were anticipating the Messiah (pbuh).

The Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Unlike the other groups, whose members lived in Jerusalem or other towns and cities, the Essenes lived in remote corners of the Jordanian hinterland. They were a more devout people, in comparison to the others, and had a more spiritual nature. They shared the common belief of the people: The Messiah (pbuh) would come soon, would correct the deviations and aberrations of the Children of Israel, and would free the Holy Land from Roman occupation. This sect's members were totally hostile to Hellenistic culture and Roman rule, and were trying their best to live by the Mosaic law. They isolated themselves from the outside world, living in caves in the Jordanian hinterland and spending all of their time working on scriptures, in order to await the Messiah (pbuh) in dedication and worship.

Flavius Josephus wrote about this group in his book, but when scholars realized that the scrolls found in the caves of Qirbet Qumran in 1947 near the western shore of the Dead Sea belonged to the Essenes, they suddenly became the best-known group of all, and their sect's importance to history was raised by the interpretations of the scrolls' contents. Further excavations yielded a total of



On April 15, 1957, *Time* magazine published a comprehensive article on the Dead Sea Scrolls. After this, the world media began to take an interest in the excavations.

600 scrolls and other items in Aramaic, Hebrew and Greek. Among the discoveries were Biblical texts, heretofore unknown religious texts of Judaism, texts relating the sect's rules and practices of everyday life, and many other subjects.

After long and arduous research, researchers ascertained that the scrolls were written by the scribes of a Jewish sect, widely acknowledged to be the Essenes. The Roman writer Pliny the Younger (62-113 ce) states that the Essenes lived in Qirbet Qumran, which strengthens their case further. The oldest scroll dates back to 200 bce, and the most recent belongs to the year 68 ce. This date coincides with the counterattack launched by the Roman General Vespasian (9-79 ce) to quell the Jewish revolt.

When the scrolls were analyzed, much about the Essenes' lives and beliefs came to light. They believed in a Savior-Prophet about to come to them; believed in the scriptures and abiding strictly by their law; and, contrary to the Sadducees, believed in the Hereafter, destiny, angels, Paradise, and Hell. Furthermore,



they believed themselves to be the "Sons of Light" in the service of the Lord, and were preparing for the struggle with the "Sons of Darkness." The expression "Sons of Light" also appears in the Bible. The Essenes, who considered cleanliness paramount, bathed several times a day, regarded one another as brothers, and valued brotherly love. One of their core beliefs was that a Messiah (pbuh) would come.

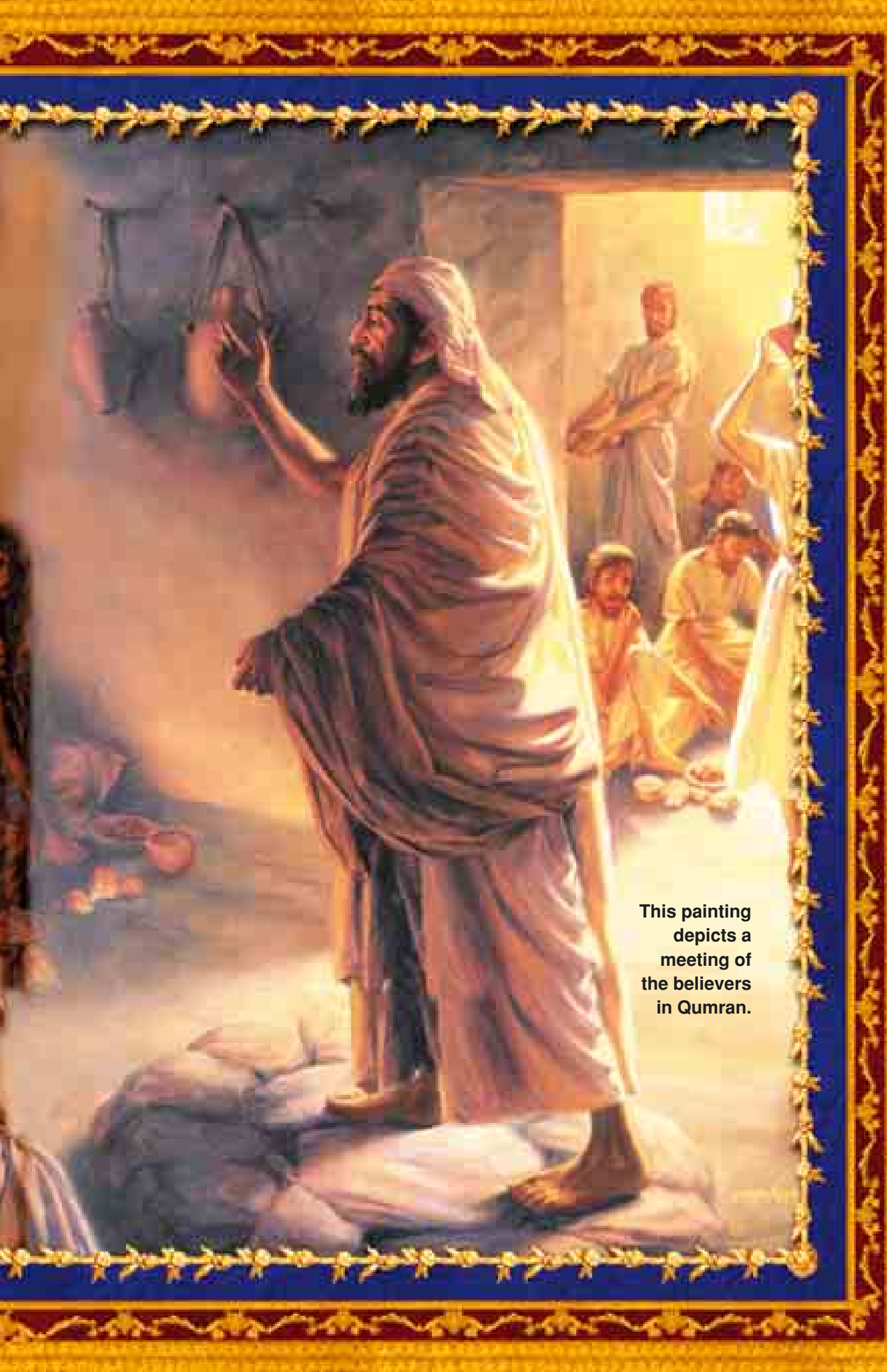
To sum up, research reveals that the Essenes were a branch of the Pharisee movement and shared the same beliefs. They abandoned the Sadducee's official religion of Judaism and their Torah, as did the Pharisees, and tried to spread their creed by leading a modest life. This religious group expected a Messiah, based on the scriptures that they had, and sought to prepare for his arrival. This



The first scrolls belonging to the Essenes were found in sealed containers. The first part of the scrolls found in cave no. 11.

proves that the true religion was alive and followed, despite all attempts to lead people away from it. The Jews' fragmentation at the time of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is noteworthy. The Jewish people were enduring a pagan occupation government and were ideologically divided in their various interpretations of Judaism. Each sect had its own views, and each one claimed to represent true Judaism.





This painting depicts a meeting of the believers in Qumran.

... "Our Lord, take us
out of this city, whose
inhatiants are wrongdoers!
Give us a protector from You!
Give us a helper from You!"
(Surat an-Nisa', 75)



Jews Expecting "The Savior"

The Torah contains a great deal of material on the Messiah's (pbuh) second coming. These revelations, some of which we will examine later on, had such an effect on people that the Messiah (pbuh) came to mean salvation for them. When Maimonides (1135-1204), the famous Jewish theologian who lived in Andalucia (Muslim Spain), was working on the Jewish system of faith, he reserved an article of faith out of his thirteen principles for the coming of Messiah (pbuh). It reads: **"I believe with complete faith in the coming of the Messiah; and though he may tarry, I shall wait for him every day."**[5]

According to Judaism, Allah will send a leader to the Children of Israel, at a time when they are at their lowest politically as well as religiously, to save them on both counts. This leader will enable the Children of Israel to believe as purely in Allah as they used to, and also will lead them to victory against their enemies as "the Messiah (pbuh)."

Some books of the Torah refer frequently to this savior and reveal the righteousness, justice, and happiness that will prevail when his time has come. For instance, the Book of Isaiah reveals the Messiah's (pbuh) great sense of justice, "fear of the Lord," and insight, as well as the happiness that he will bring to the Children of Israel, as follows:

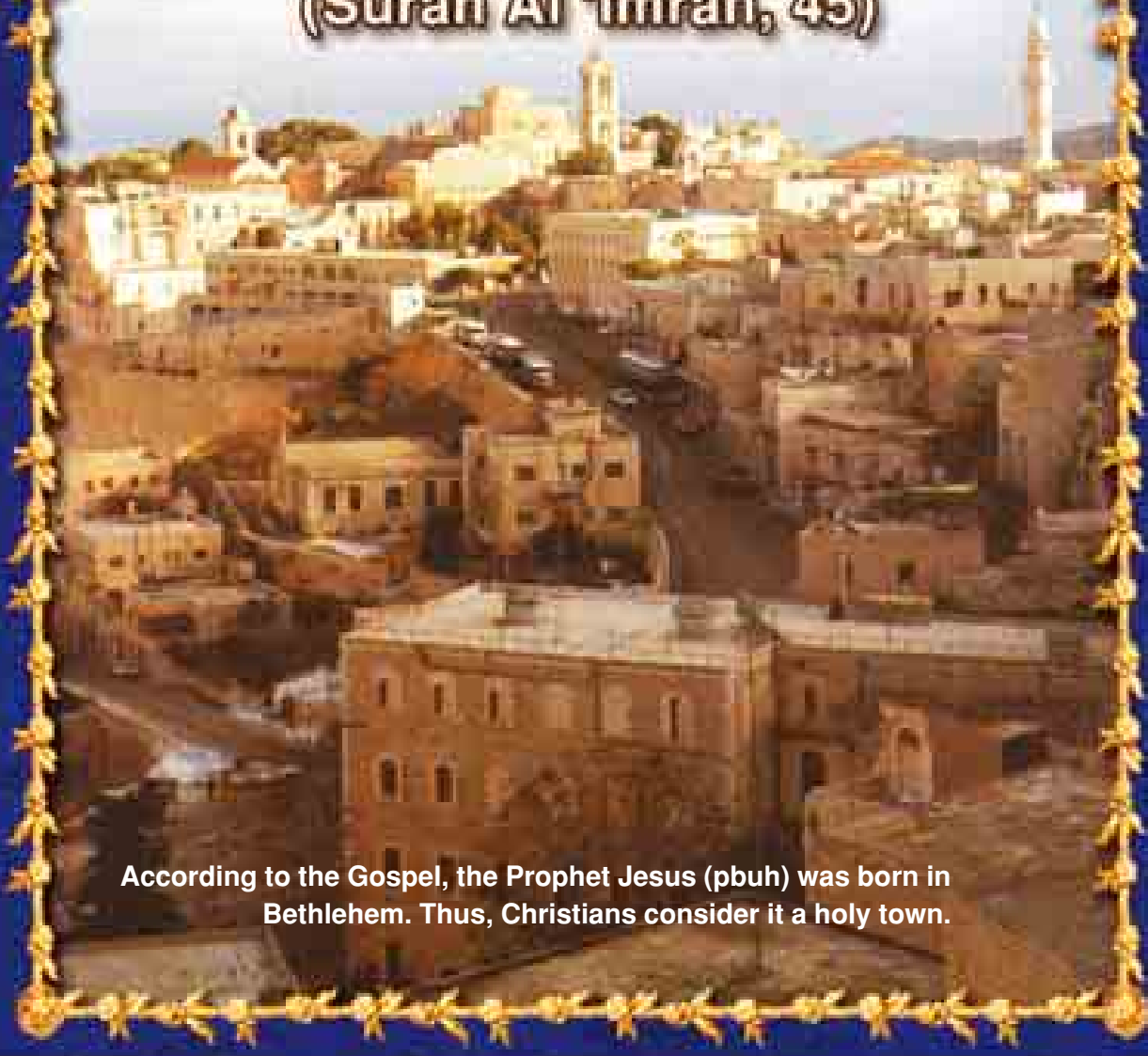
> *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of power, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with right-*

eousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt. ... The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling [will lie down] together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child will put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, [just] as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:1-9)

This anticipation of the Messiah (pbuh) grew stronger under Herod the Great's tyrannical regime. Movements expecting the Messiah (pbuh) sprang up everywhere on Jewish soil and were busy either preparing for his arrival or reminding people of his imminent arrival. However, this anticipation began to be perceived as a threat by and to Rome, as well as to Herod's authority, because they were usually aimed at the Roman regime and its compliant Jewish administration. Such a strong movement could incite the whole society to rise up against pagan rule. To prevent this, both authorities took various precautions. According to the Bible, this was the reason why Herod ordered the murder of all Jewish boys up to 2 years old. The Gospel of Matthew relates that:

After the Prophet Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi [wise men] from the east came to Jerusalem and asked: "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east."… When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law,

... His name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, of high esteem in this world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near (to Allah).
(Surah Al 'Imran, 45)



According to the Gospel, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was born in Bethlehem. Thus, Christians consider it a holy town.



The exterior of the Church of the Nativity, believed to have been built on the spot where the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was born. This church, located in Bethlehem, is one of the most holy sites for Christian pilgrims.

he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said: "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me." … When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious and gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet

Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." (Matthew 2:1-8, 16-18)

Despite the fact that some people identified the Messiah's (pbuh) attributes related in the Torah with the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), a close analysis reveals that these attributes are in one-to-one correspondence with Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh) whose appearance was heralded by our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). (For further details see, Harun Yahya, *Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh) Is A Descendant of the Prophet Abraham (pbuh)*).

Oppressed People Want a Savior

In the Qur'an Allah speaks of oppressed people who, while suffering hardship and tyranny, expect a savior who will deliver them from their troubles. Our Lord says the following:

What reason could you have for not fighting in the Way of Allah—for those men, women, and children who are oppressed and exclaim: "Our Lord, take us out of this city whose inhabitants are wrongdoers! Give us a protector from You! Give us a helper from You!"? (Surat an-Nisa', 75)

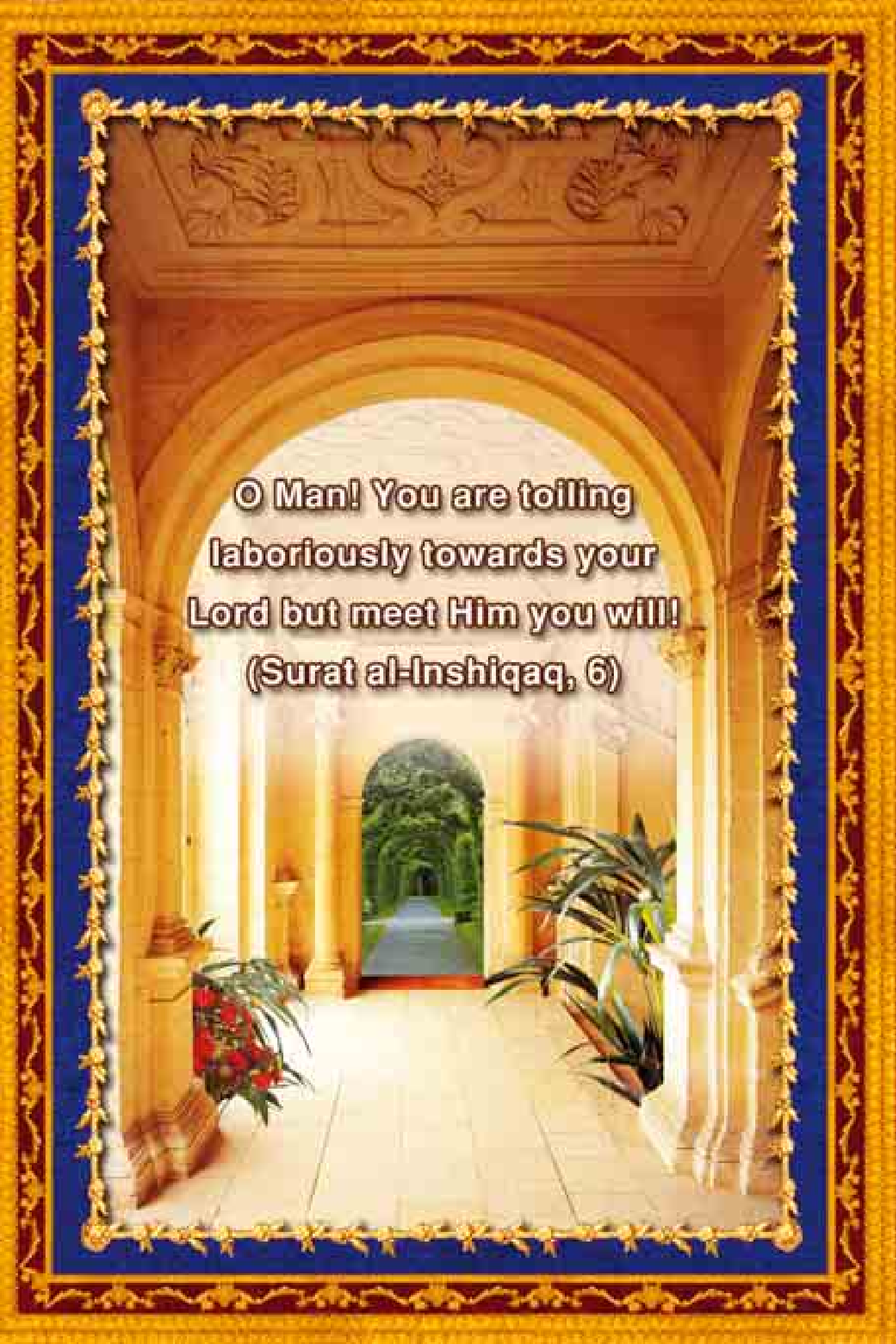
It is revealed in the verses that the nations to which Allah sent His Messengers were experiencing total social and moral exhaustion before the arrival of the Messengers appointed for them by Allah. Following their arrival, the people who believed in them lived in plenty, ease, and happiness. But after their departure, some people followed their selfish instincts and thus moved away from religious morality and toward denial. They failed themselves by worshipping idols as Allah's partners. In the Qur'an, Allah reveals the Messengers' loyalty to Him, as well as their sincerity and

devotion, and then speaks of those people who lost their faith, as follows:

> **Those are some of the Prophets Allah has blessed, from the descendants of Adam and from those We carried with Noah, from the descendants of Abraham and Israel, and from those We guided and chose. When the Signs of the All-Merciful were recited to them, they fell on their faces, weeping, in prostration. An evil generation succeeded them, who neglected the prayer and followed their appetites. They will plunge into the Valley of Evil. (Surah Maryam,58-59)**

Allah reprimanded these people, for they distanced themselves from religion and never thought about why they were created or what their responsibilities toward their Creator were. In return for this, He changed His blessing and gave them a hard life: **"But if anyone turns away from My reminder, his life will be a dark and narrow one..."** (Surah Ta Ha, 124)

Throughout history, people who are enduring economic or social problems and who are suffering under an unjust regime have felt the need for a savior who would correct the system's negative aspects; guarantee justice, peace, and security; and guide them onto the right path. Today's societies also are experiencing rapid decline, decadence, and degeneration. People who live in abject poverty, misery, and cruelty crave a life of morality and happiness. Allah sent saviors to people in the past, following their social breakdown, and then gave them lives filled with plenty, ease, and wealth. In the following verse, Allah reveals that He will give wealth and ease to people who fear and stand in awe of Him, and who respect the limits that He has established:


O Man! You are toiling
laboriously towards your
Lord but meet Him you will!
(Surat al-Inshiqaq, 6)

Restrain yourself patiently with those who call on their Lord morning and evening, desiring His face. Do not turn your eyes from them, desiring the attractions of this world. And do not obey someone whose heart We have made neglectful of Our remembrance and who follows his own whims and desires and whose life has transgressed all bounds.
(Surat al-Kahf, 28)



If only the people of the cities had believed and guarded against evil, We would have opened up to them blessings from Heaven and Earth. But they denied the truth, [and] so We seized them for what they earned. (Surat al-A'raf, 96)

Our Lord reminds us of an important reality in the above verse: Religious morality is the only way leading to peace, happiness, general welfare, and prosperity. This was so in the past, and will remain so in the future. Where there is no Islamic morality, there cannot be justice, security, and dependability. This is Allah's law, as stated in the following verse:

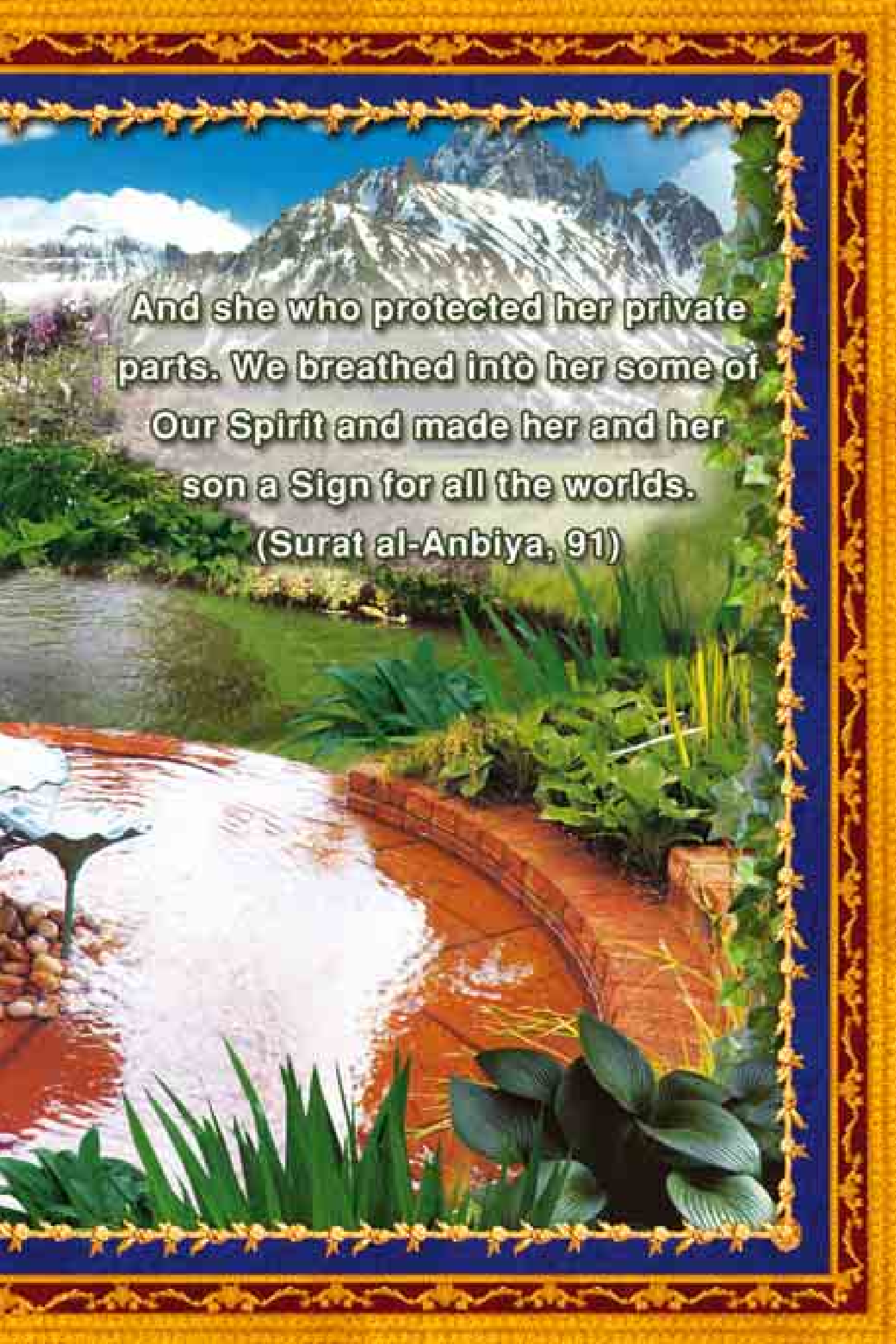
You will not find any changing in the pattern of Allah. You will not find any alteration in the pattern of Allah. (Surah Fatir, 43)

The period in which we are living is ruled by decadence. Material as well as spiritual decay is widespread, perversity (in the sense of irreligious behavior) is widespread, political and economic instability are the norm, and the gap between rich and poor is huge. Among the truths revealed by the Qur'an is that Allah shows a way out after such times, through which Islamic morality will prevail everywhere on Earth, and true religion will prevail over man-made beliefs. As Allah reveals in the verses given below:

They desire to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths. But Allah refuses to do other than perfect His Light, even though the unbelievers detest it. It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, even though the idolaters detest it. (Surat at-Tawba, 32-33)

Allah has helped every faithful nation, and will continue to help the believers, for He has promised this to His sincere and faithful servants. Allah says in these verses:

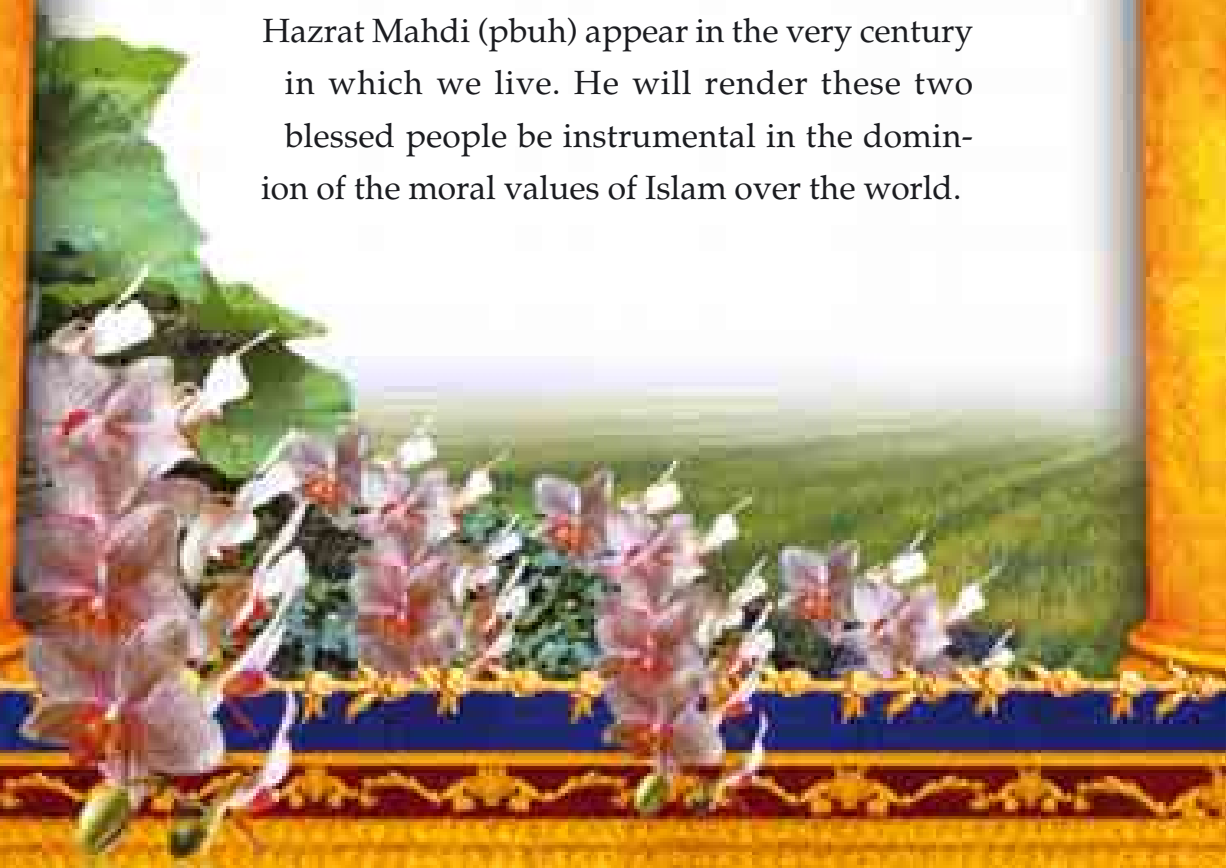



And she who protected her private
parts. We breathed into her some of
Our Spirit and made her and her
son a Sign for all the worlds.
(Surat al-Anbiya, 91)

The Glad Tidings of the Messiah (pbuh)

[They are] those who were expelled from their homes without any right, merely for saying: "Our Lord is Allah." If Allah had not driven some people back by means of others, monasteries, churches, synagogues and mosques, places where Allah's name is mentioned much, would have been pulled down and destroyed. Allah will certainly help those who help Him. Allah is All-Strong, Almighty. [And they are] those who, if We establish them firmly in the land, will perform prayer and give the alms, and command what is right and forbid what is wrong. The end result of all affairs is with Allah. (Surat al-Hajj, 40-41)

As also revealed in the Qur'an and the hadith of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), Allah will resend the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) to Earth and make Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh) appear in the very century in which we live. He will render these two blessed people be instrumental in the dominion of the moral values of Islam over the world.



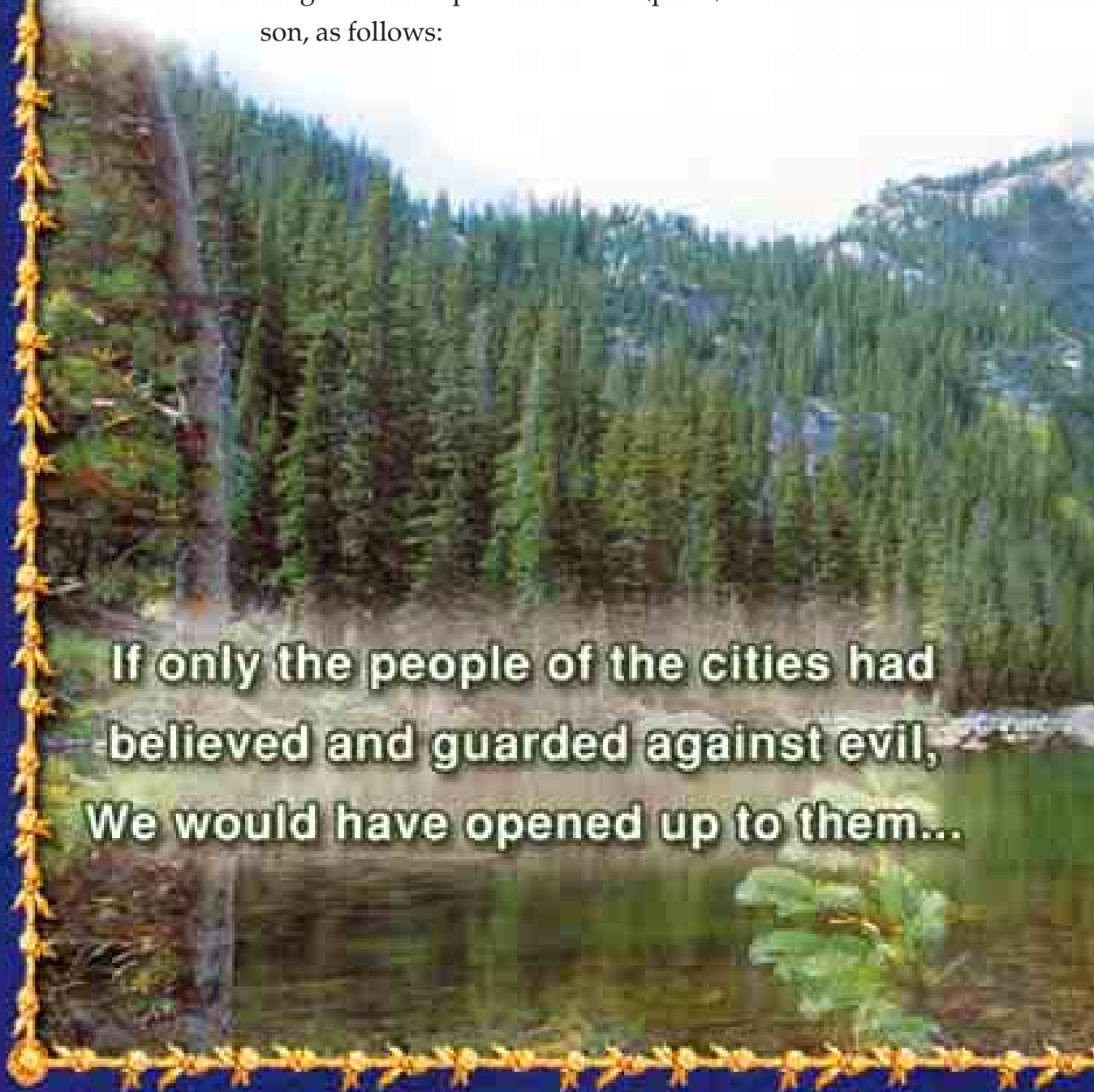
The Prophet John (Yahya) (pbuh)

According to the Gospel, John (pbuh) (known as John the Baptist in the Christian tradition) began preaching some time before the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) appeared about the Messiah's (pbuh) imminent arrival. In fact, he became the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) greatest supporter.

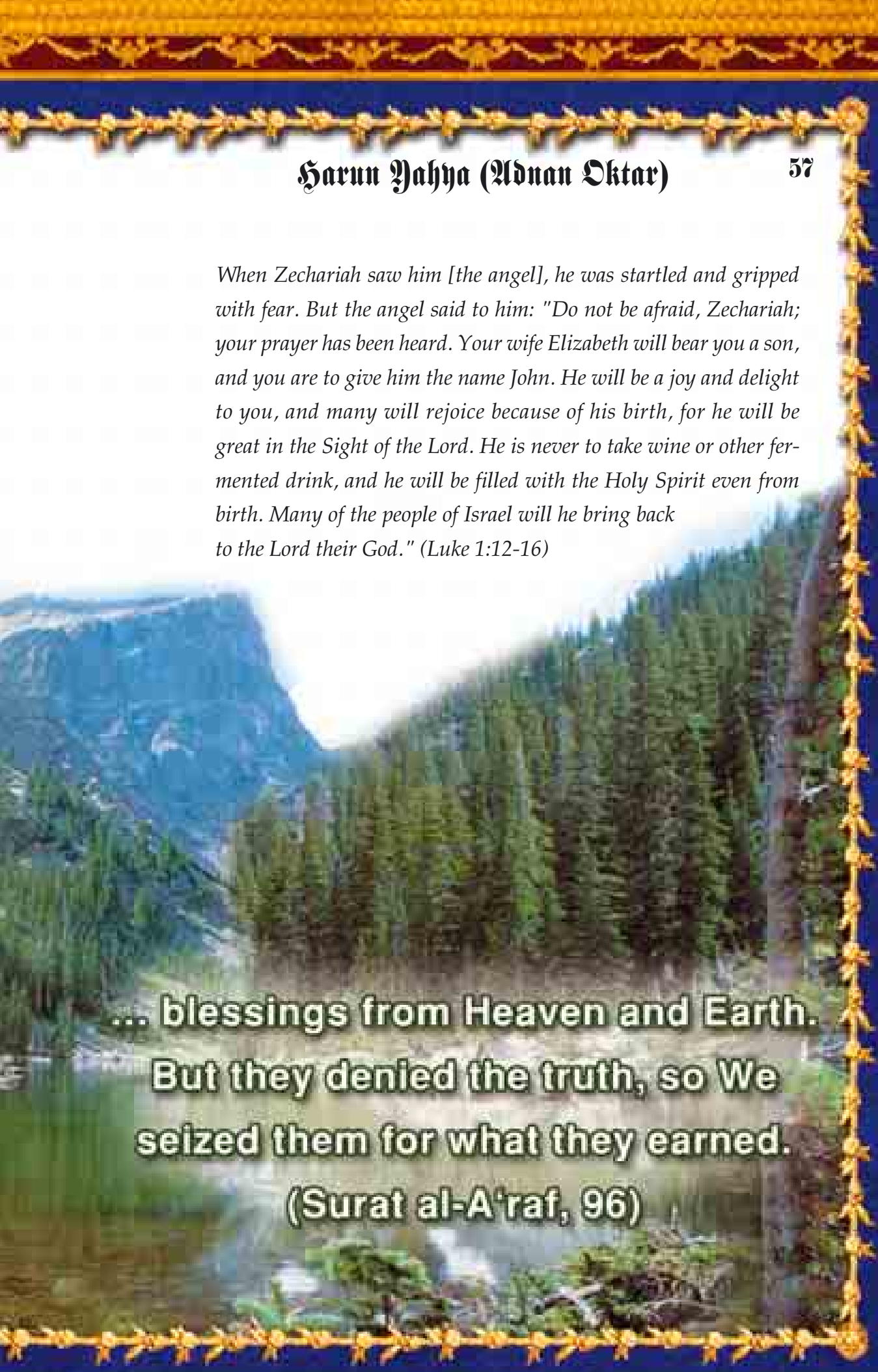
By our Lord's Will, the Prophet John's (pbuh) birth was a miracle, as Allah reveals in the Qur'an:

> **Kaf Ha Ya 'Ayn Sad. Remember your Lord's mercy to His servant Zechariah, when he called on his Lord in secret and said: "My Lord, my bones have lost their strength and my head is crowned with white. But in calling on You, My Lord, I have never been disappointed. I fear [that] my relatives [will forget You] when I am gone, and my wife is barren, so give me an heir from You to be my inheritor and the inheritor of the family of Jacob. And make him, my Lord, pleasing to You." "Zechariah! We give you the good news of a boy named John, a name we have given to no one else before." He [Zechariah] said: "My Lord! How can I have a boy when my wife is barren and I have reached advanced old age?" He [the Lord] said: "It will be so! Your Lord says: 'That is easy for me to do. I created you before, when you were not anything.'" (Surah Maryam, 1-9)**

The narrative of the Prophet John's (pbuh) birth in the Gospel of Luke is compatible with these verses. The Prophet Zechariah (pbuh) was the Prophet John's (pbuh) father, and he and his wife were, according to Luke, "upright in the Sight of God, observing all of the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly" (Luke 1:6). Both were old, and neither could have children. But Allah gave the Prophet Zechariah (pbuh) the news of a son, as follows:



When Zechariah saw him [the angel], he was startled and gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the Sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God." (Luke 1:12-16)

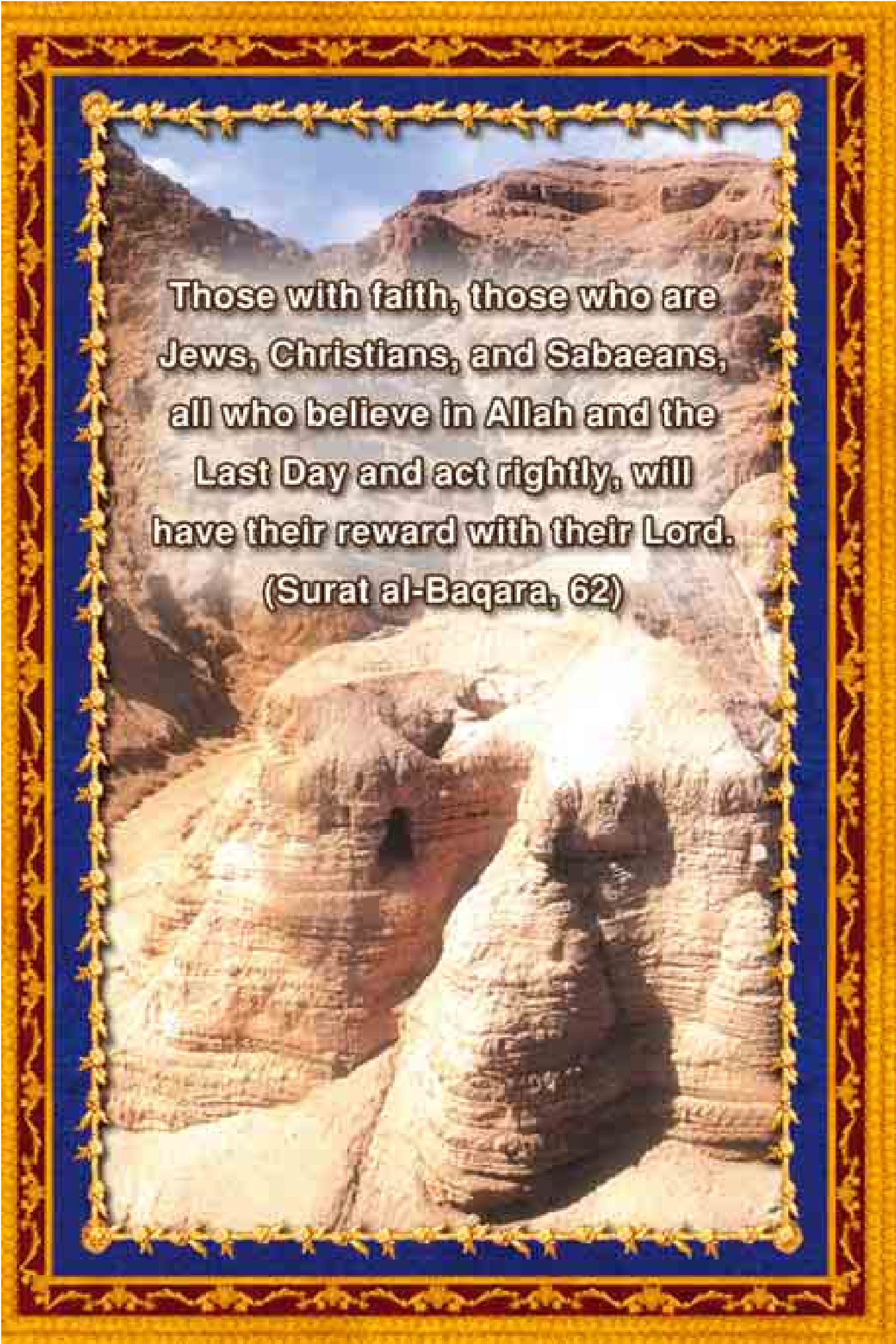


The Prophet John (pbuh) was a righteous servant of Allah who feared Him and a guide to enlightenment for his people. Allah praises him in the Qur'an, as follows:

> **[We said:] "John, take hold of the Book with vigor." We gave him judgment while still a child, and tenderness and purity from Us. He guarded [himself] against evil, was devoted to his parents, and was not insolent or disobedient. Peace be upon him the day he was born, and the day he dies, and the day he is raised up again alive. (Surah Maryam, 12-15)**

The Prophet John (pbuh), whom the Gospel also calls a loyal servant of Allah who had fear for Him warned some Jews who distanced from the morality of religion about their conceit, and invited them to abide by Allah's law and to abstain from sin. The Gospel of Luke relates a conversation between the Prophet John (pbuh) and some Jews who came to hear him:

> *John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves: 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered: "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him: "And what should we do?" He replied: "Don't extort money, don't accuse people falsely, and be content with your pay." (Luke 3:7-14)*


Those with faith, those who are
Jews, Christians, and Sabaeans,
all who believe in Allah and the
Last Day and act rightly, will
have their reward with their Lord.
(Surat al-Baqara, 62)

THE PROPHET JESUS' (PBUH) LIFE

According to the historical sources, Mary was born at a time when the disorder mentioned earlier in the book was happening, when Roman oppression was real, and the Jews were impatiently awaiting the Messiah's (pbuh) arrival. She was a descendent of 'Imran, whose family had been made superior by Allah (Surah Al 'Imran, 33). Allah chose her from among them, purified her, and placed her above all other women, for as Allah reveals in the Qur'an:

> **And when the angels said: "Mary, Allah has chosen you and purified you. He has chosen you over all other women. Mary, obey your Lord and prostrate and bow with those who bow." (Surah Al 'Imran, 42-43)**

The family of 'Imran was known to believe in Allah, to seek His good pleasure in whatever they do, and to always respect the limits that He has established. When Imran's wife learned of her pregnancy, she immediately turned to Allah in prayer and dedicated her unborn child to Allah. It is a sign of her true submission to Allah that she named her child Maryam (Mary in English), meaning "someone who is always worshipping Allah." This subject is revealed in the Qur'an:

> **Remember when the wife of 'Imran said: "My Lord, I have pledged to You what is in my womb, consecrated [for Your service]. Please accept my prayer. You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing." When she gave birth,**



One of Giovanni Bellini's masterworks depicting Mary (1481) on display in the Frari church.

she said: "My Lord! I have given birth to a girl"—and Allah knew very well what she had given birth to, male and female are not the same—"and I have named her Mary and placed her and her children in Your safekeeping from the accursed satan." (Surah Al 'Imran, 35-36)

Allah reveals that Mary's mother dedicated her to Allah, "consecrated for His service." The Arabic word used here, i.e.,

muharraran, means "one who is wholly preoccupied with the Hereafter, who has no business with the world, who worships Allah at all times, who is in the service of the House of Allah, who is sincere in his or her worship and, who has no worldly intentions in his or her worship." Imran's wife asked Allah to allow Mary to serve only Him, and for her to become totally devoted to His good pleasure rather than other people's.

When Mary was born, Imran's wife asked Allah to protect Mary and her descendents from the evil of satan. Allah answered her sincere prayer and gave Mary a superior morality. Allah reveals how carefully Mary was raised under Allah's protection:

> **Her Lord accepted her with approval and made her grow in health and beauty. And Zechariah became her guardian. (Surah Al 'Imran, 37)**

Allah states that Prophet Zechariah (pbuh) was a righteous servant who was favored over all beings, and one guided to a straight path as a Prophet. Allah praises him in the Qur'an and points out his impeccable character (Surat al-An'am, 85-87). The Prophet Zechariah (pbuh), who took on the responsibility of caring for Mary and thus witnessed many of her miracles, realized that she was Allah's chosen one.

For instance, whenever the Prophet Zechariah (pbuh) entered the presence of Mary, who always worshipped by herself, he found food with her. Allah states in the Qur'an:

> **Every time Zechariah visited her in the praying chamber, he found food with her. He said: "Mary, how did you come by this?" She said: "It is from Allah. Allah provides for whoever He wills without any reckoning." (Surah Al 'Imran, 37)**

Mary became well known in her community as a member of

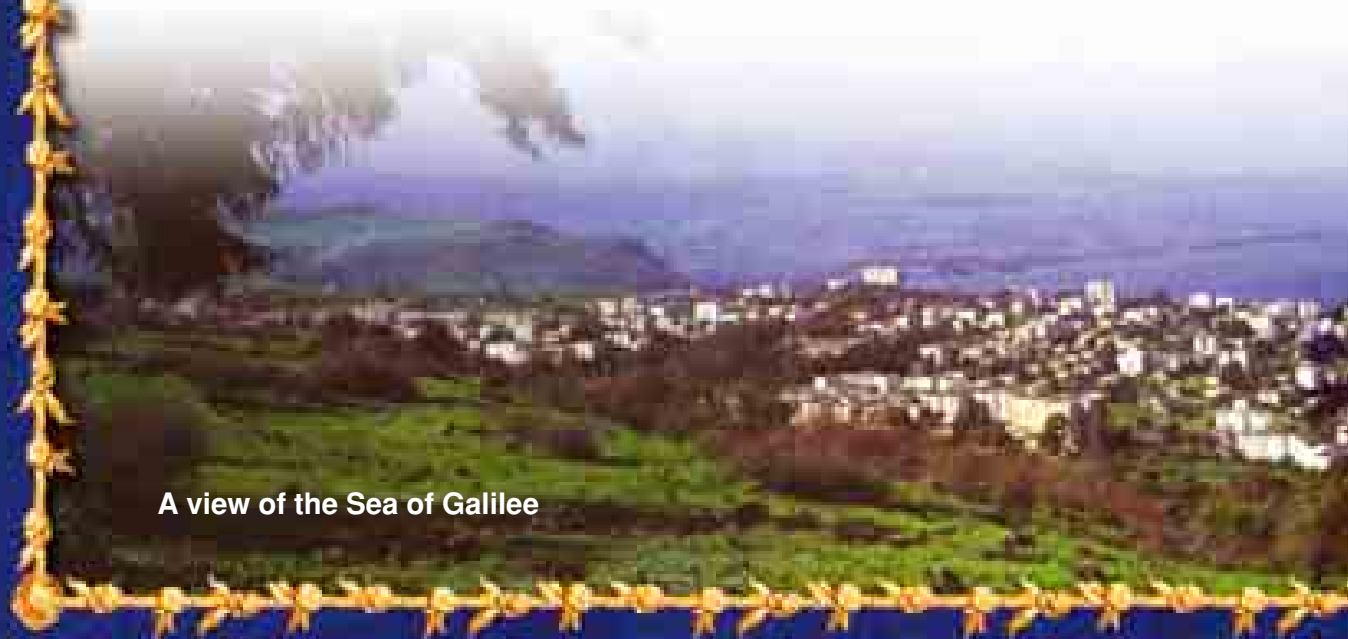
her family who was dedicated wholeheartedly to Allah. Allah speaks of her chastity in particular, as follows in the Qur'an:

> **And Mary, the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity—We breathed Our Spirit into her, and she confirmed the Words of her Lord and His Book and was one of the obedient. (Surat at-Tahrim, 12)**

Mary's Encounter with Gabriel

Mary's life was full of miracles, one of which was her encounter with Gabriel. At a particular stage in her life, Mary left her community and family and secluded herself somewhere in the east. There, the Qur'an mentions that Gabriel appeared to her in the form of a man:

> **Mention Mary in the Book, how she withdrew from her people to an eastern place and veiled herself from them. Then We sent Our Spirit to her, and it took on for her the form of a handsome, well-built man. She [Mary] said: "I seek refuge from you with the All-Merciful if you guard against evil." (Surah Maryam, 16-18)**



A view of the Sea of Galilee

At first, she did not know that the unknown person was Gabriel. Thus, she immediately sought refuge with Allah when he approached and said that she was a God-fearing believer. Her words make it clear that she was a God-fearing and chaste servant. Gabriel introduced himself by stating that he was sent by Allah to give her the following good news:

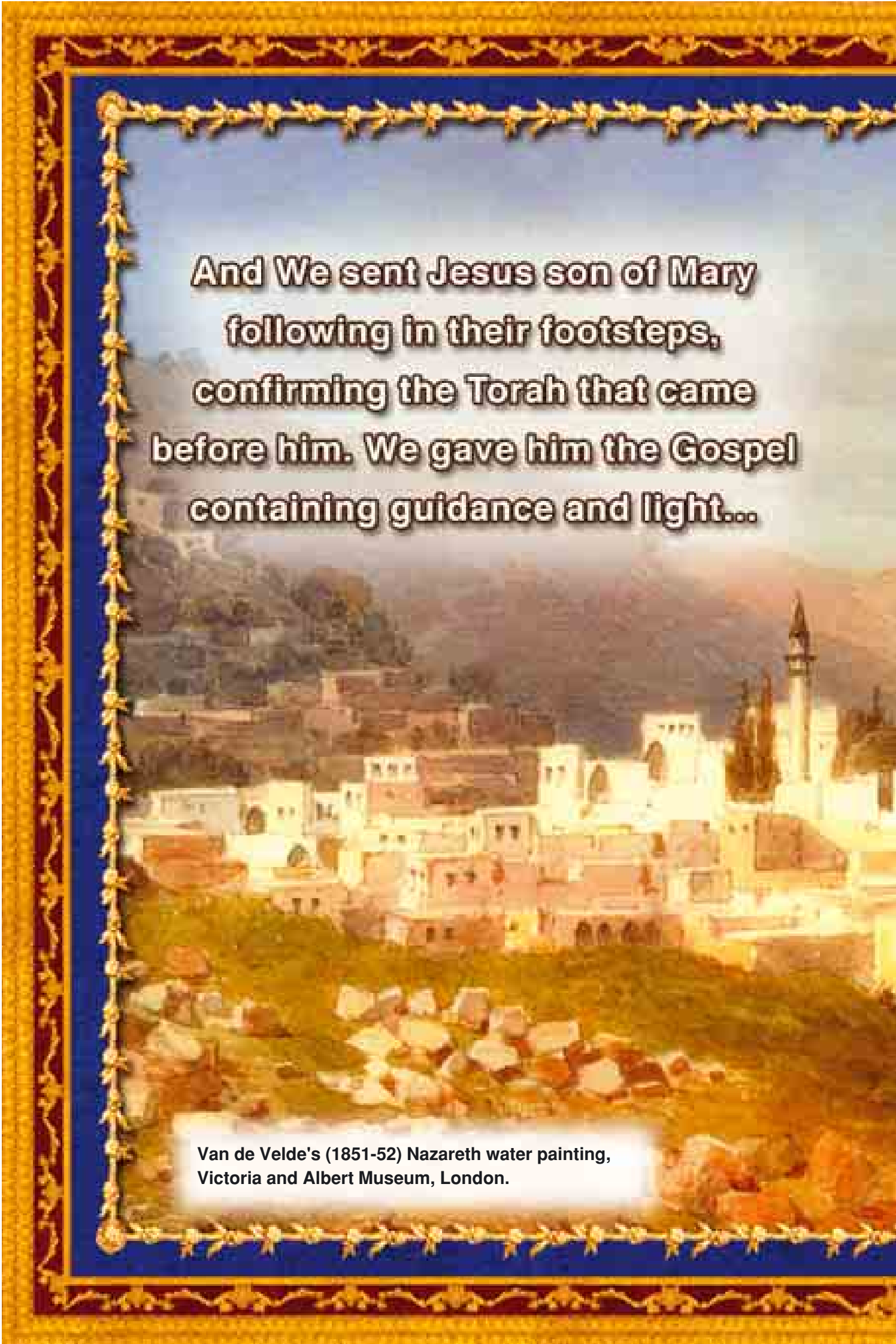
He said [to Mary]: "I am only your Lord's messenger so that He can give you a pure boy." (Surah Maryam, 19)

When the angels said: "Mary, your Lord gives you good news of a Word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus , son of Mary, of high esteem in this world and the Hereafter, one of those brought near." (Surah Al 'Imran, 45)

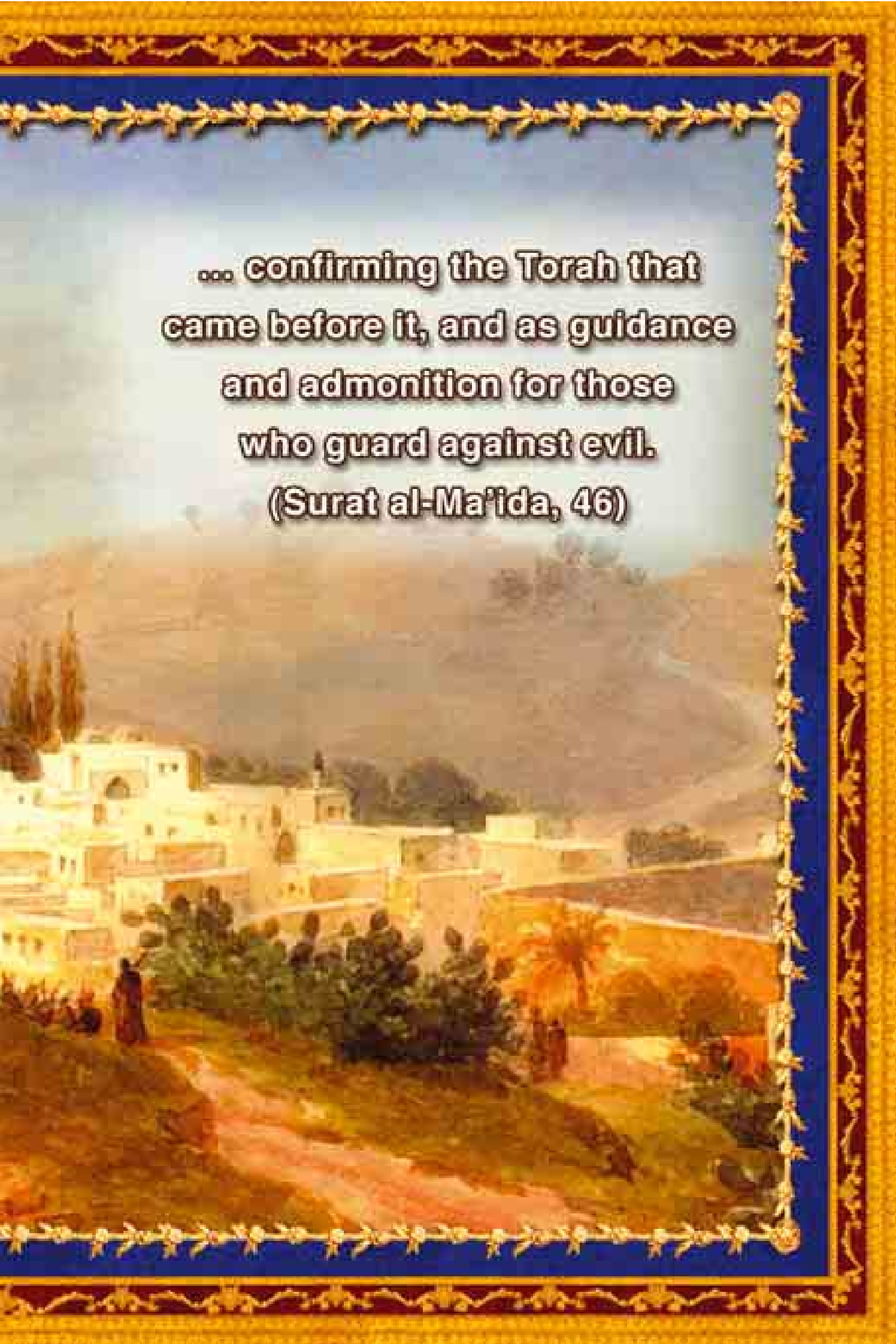
Mary received this important news and asked Gabriel how she could have a child while she was still a virgin:

She said: "How can I have a boy when no man has touched me and I am not an unchaste woman?" He said: "It will be so, for your Lord says: 'That is easy for Me. It is so that We can make him a Sign for mankind and a mercy from Us.' It is a matter already decreed." So she conceived him and withdrew with him to a distant place. (Surah Maryam, 20-22)





Van de Velde's (1851-52) Nazareth water painting,
Victoria and Albert Museum, London.


... confirming the Torah that
came before it, and as guidance
and admonition for those
who guard against evil.
(Surat al-Ma'ida, 46)

She said: "My Lord, how can I have a son when no man has yet touched me?" He said: "It will be so." Allah creates whatever He wills. When He decides on something, He just says to it "Be!" and it is. (Surah Al 'Imran, 47)

Gabriel replied that Allah has the power to do anything and that He needs only to say "Be!" and it is. This is how Mary conceived Jesus (pbuh)—by the will of Allah and without ever being touched by a man. Her pregnancy was created independent of the worldly order in a miraculous way. As our Lord reveals, after receiving this good news, Mary withdrew to somewhere quiet. Allah supported her during that time in every way and provided all that a pregnant woman could wish for psychologically as well as materially. He made her withdraw from her people, who would not have been able to comprehend her situation, and thereby prevented the physical or spiritual damage that they could have caused her.

THE PROPHET JESUS' (PBUH) BIRTH

In the Qur'an, Allah draws the attention to the fact that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was unique in every respect. First of all, he was born without a father. Through His angels, Allah revealed to Mary before The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) birth that her son would be the Messiah (pbuh) and have many other Allah-given qualities as well. In fact, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) had the honor of being called "Allah's Word":

The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only the Messenger of Allah and His Word, which He cast into Mary, and a Spirit from Him. (Surat an-Nisa', 171)

When the angels said: "Mary, your Lord gives you good

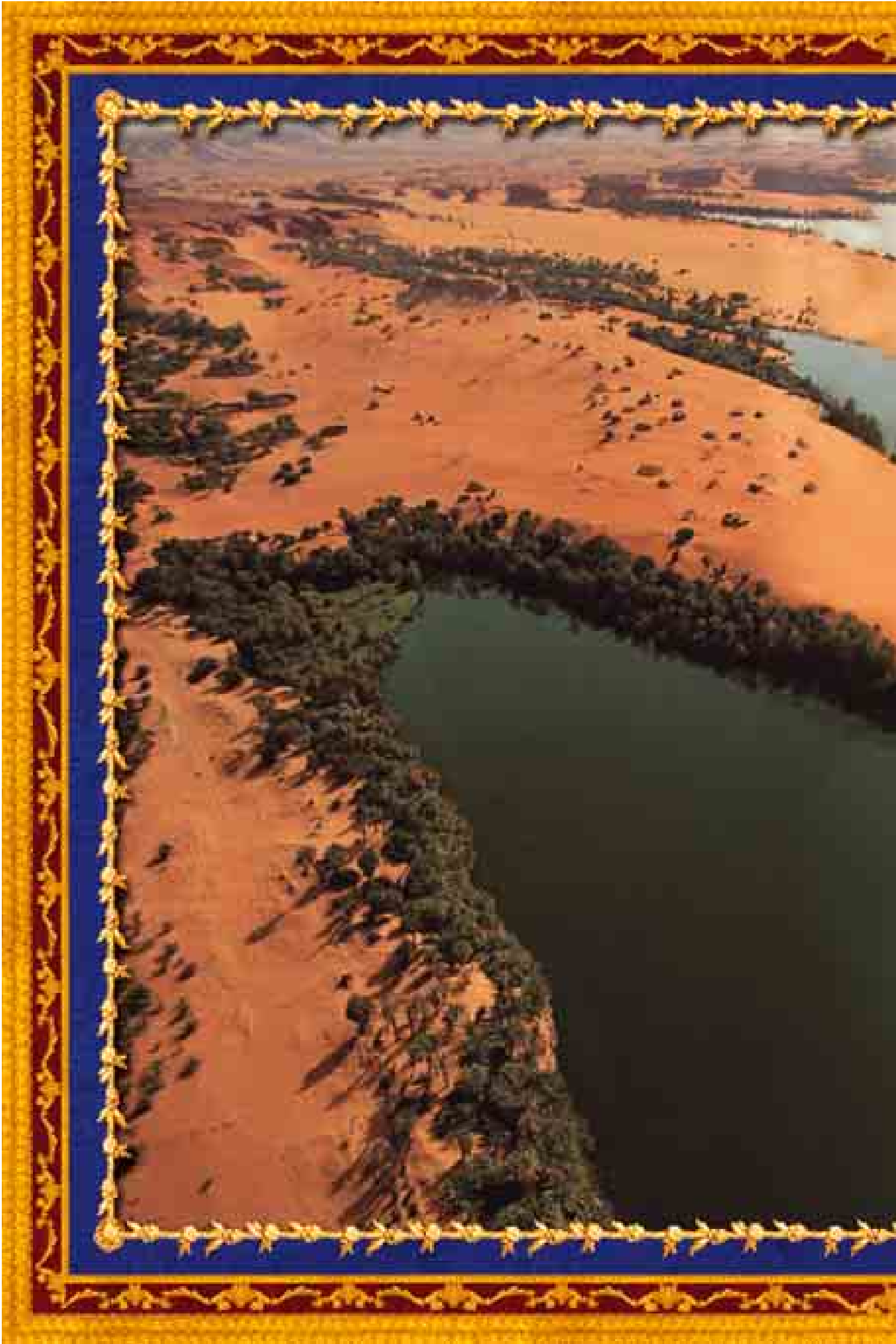
news of a Word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, of high esteem in this world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near." (Surah Al 'Imran, 45)

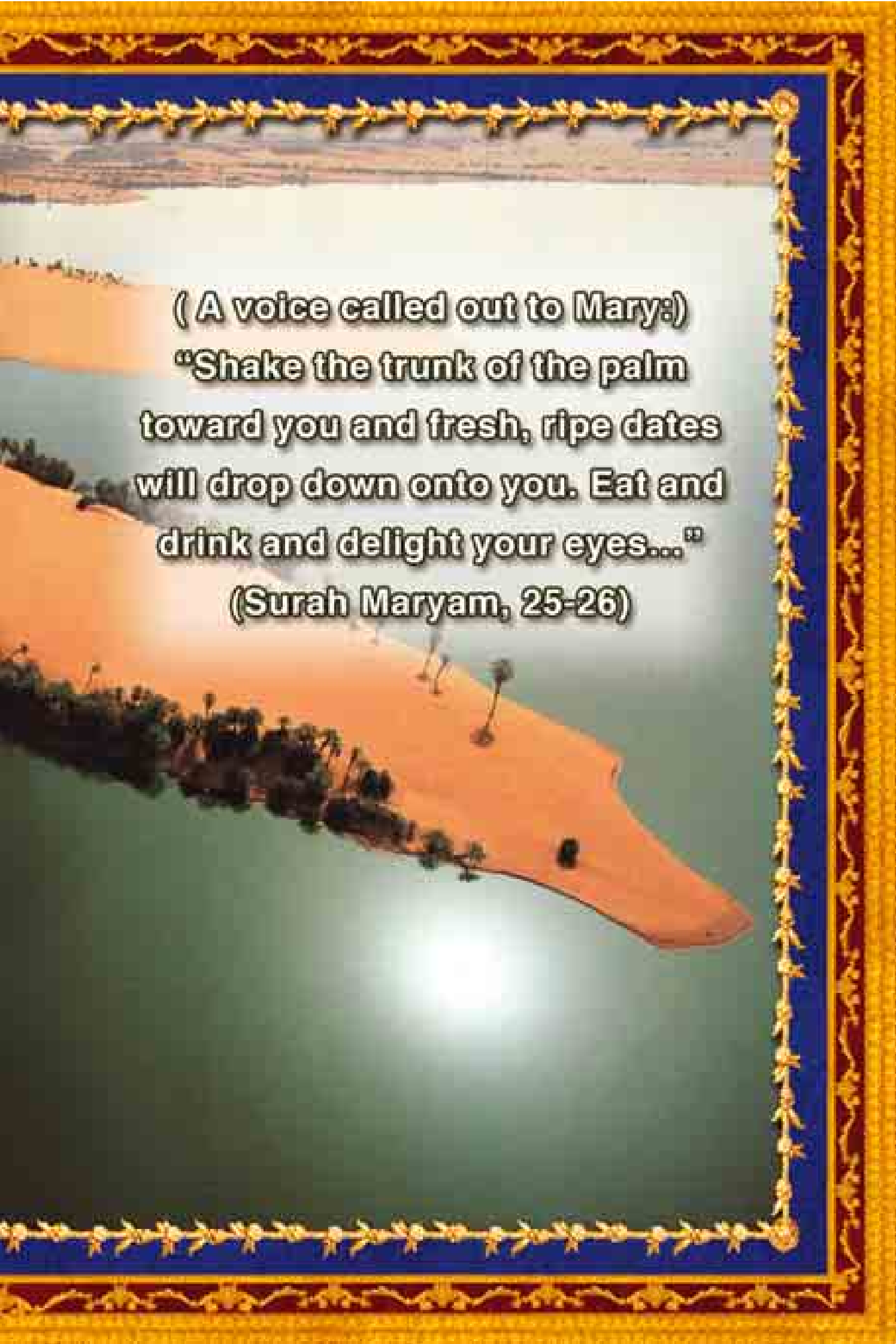
In the Qur'an, the expression "Allah's Word" is only used for the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Allah revealed his name before his birth and named him "Messiah Jesus," as a Word from Him. This is another sign that The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) creation differs from that of all other people.

Allah sustained Mary in the best way during her pregnancy and the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) birth, and also guided her. He made the environmental conditions favorable for her, for since she had removed herself from her family and community, she was all alone. With the help of Allah, Mary managed this difficult situation by herself and gave birth to her son without any complications. Allah reveals His grace for Mary in the following verses:

The pains of labor drove her to the trunk of a date-palm. She exclaimed: "Oh if only I had died before this time and was something discarded and forgotten!" A voice called out to her from under her: "Do not grieve. Your Lord has placed a small stream at your feet. Shake the trunk of the palm toward you, and fresh, ripe dates will drop down to you. Eat and drink and delight your eyes. If you should see anyone at all, just say: 'I have made a vow of abstinence to the All-Merciful, and today I will not speak to any human being.'" (Surah Maryam, 23-26)

As the verses tell, Allah helped Mary with revelation and told her not to lose heart. He revealed to her everything that she needed to know, and ensured that she would have an easy birth. Allah's grace and protection for her are shown in this event.



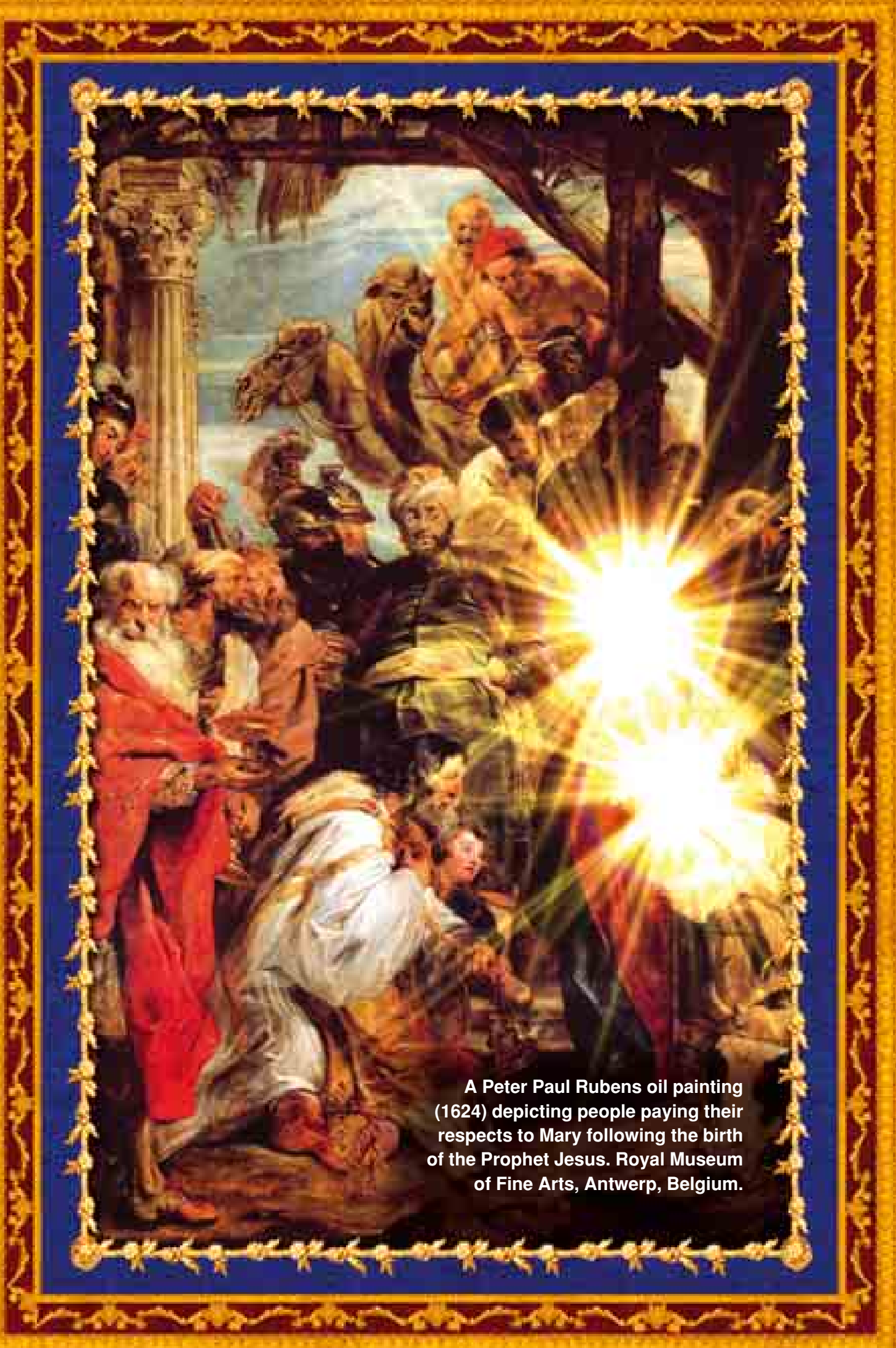

(A voice called out to Mary:)
"Shake the trunk of the palm
toward you and fresh, ripe dates
will drop down onto you. Eat and
drink and delight your eyes..."
(Surah Maryam, 25-26)

When Mary returned to her people together with the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), her people slandered her with ugly accusations based on speculation, even though they knew her and her dedication, as well as that of her family, to Allah, and her chastity. The circumstances of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) birth are, in reality, a miracle that Allah granted to Mary's people and proof of His existence. However, her people failed to understand this, and so made unfounded allegations against her and tried to make their slander stick:

She brought him to her people, carrying him. They exclaimed: "Mary! You have done an unthinkable thing! Sister of Aaron, your father was not an evil man nor was your mother an unchaste woman!" (Surah Maryam, 27-28)

In reality, Mary was being tried with these ugly allegations. For such a devout and chaste person to be slandered in this way is a test from Allah. When confronted this situation, she turned to Allah and placed her trust in Him, knowing that He would help her against her people's accusations. She sought only His help and support and received His favor and mercy.

Allah helped His chosen servant in her time of trouble with another miracle: He revealed to her that she should not speak when her people wanted her to, but to point to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) when they accuse her.



A Peter Paul Rubens oil painting (1624) depicting people paying their respects to Mary following the birth of the Prophet Jesus. Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium.



Lorenzo Lotto's (1505-06) painting depicting Mary and the Disciples. This work is on display at the Church of Santa Cristina near Treviso, Italy.

Allah reveals this order in the following way:

> **"If you should see anyone at all, just say: 'I have made a vow of abstinence to the All-Merciful, and today I will not speak to any human being'." (Surah Maryam, 26)**

When Allah gave her the good news of The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) birth, He also revealed that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) would speak as a baby in the cradle. This miracle became a big help for Mary from the Lord:

"He will speak to people in the cradle, and also when fully grown, and will be one of the righteous." (Surah Al 'Imran, 46)

In a miraculous way, Allah made the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) give the explanation that was expected of Mary. By this miracle, He restored her good reputation and informed the Children of Israel of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) appointment as His Messenger to them:

She pointed toward him. They asked: "How can a baby in the cradle speak?" He [Jesus] said: "I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Book and made me a Prophet. He has made me blessed wherever I am, [has] directed me to perform prayer and give alms as long as I live, and to show devotion to my mother. He has not made me insolent or arrogant. Peace be upon me the day I was born, the day I die, and the day I am raised up again alive." (Surah Maryam, 29-33)

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) declares that he is Allah's servant, that he has been given revelation, that he is a Prophet expected to call to faith when he reaches adulthood, that he must perform the prescribed prayers *(salat)* and give alms *(zakat)*, that he must respect his mother's word, and that he will die and be resurrected on the Day of Judgment.

This situation proved to the Children of Israel that they had encountered an extraordinary event: the birth of the Messiah (pbuh). Allah reveals:

... and she [Mary], who protected her chastity. We breathed into her some of Our Spirit and made her and her son a Sign for all the worlds. (Surat al-Anbiya, 91)



It is also revealed in the verses that those people who continue to slander Mary (pbuh) will be punished (Surat an-Nisa', 156-157).

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Life

According to the historical records of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) lived approximately 2,000 years ago. He was a chosen messenger of Alllah and is held in honor both in the world and the Hereafter. The Gospel of Mathew states that he was born either during the reign of Herod l or in a period of the regime change (4 bce). According to the Gospel of Luke, he was born during the reign of Emperor Augustus (27 bce-14 ce) when a census was being conducted



Alessandro Boticelli's painting (1470-74) depicting respects being paid to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and Mary. The painting is on display in London's National Gallery.

in Judea (6 ce). Such information cannot be verified. However, experts analyzing various sources believe that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was born around 7-6 bce.

The true religion brought by the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), Allah's chosen Messenger who was rewarded with Paradise and special gifts, exists today. However, it does so in name only, for it has been corrupted. Likewise, the revelation given to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) by Allah exists only in name and certainly not in its original, for the Christian scrip-

tures have been tampered with and altered. As we cannot acquire any true knowledge about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) from this source, we turn to the only source that can provide true information: the Qur'an, which Allah promised to protect until the Last Day, and the hadith of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). In the Qur'an, Allah reveals much about The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) birth, life, examples of his encounters with other people, the situation of those living around him, and many other subjects. It also provides many examples of his efforts to invite the Jewish people to faith. Allah relates the following words of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) in the Qur'an:

> **"I come confirming the Torah I find already there, and to make lawful for you some of what was previously forbidden to you. I have brought you a Sign from your Lord. So heed Allah and obey me. Allah is my Lord and your Lord so worship Him. That is a straight path." (Surah Al 'Imran, 50-51)**

Only a few Jews answered his call and became his followers. Allah reveals in the Qur'an the existence of these devout believers as follows:

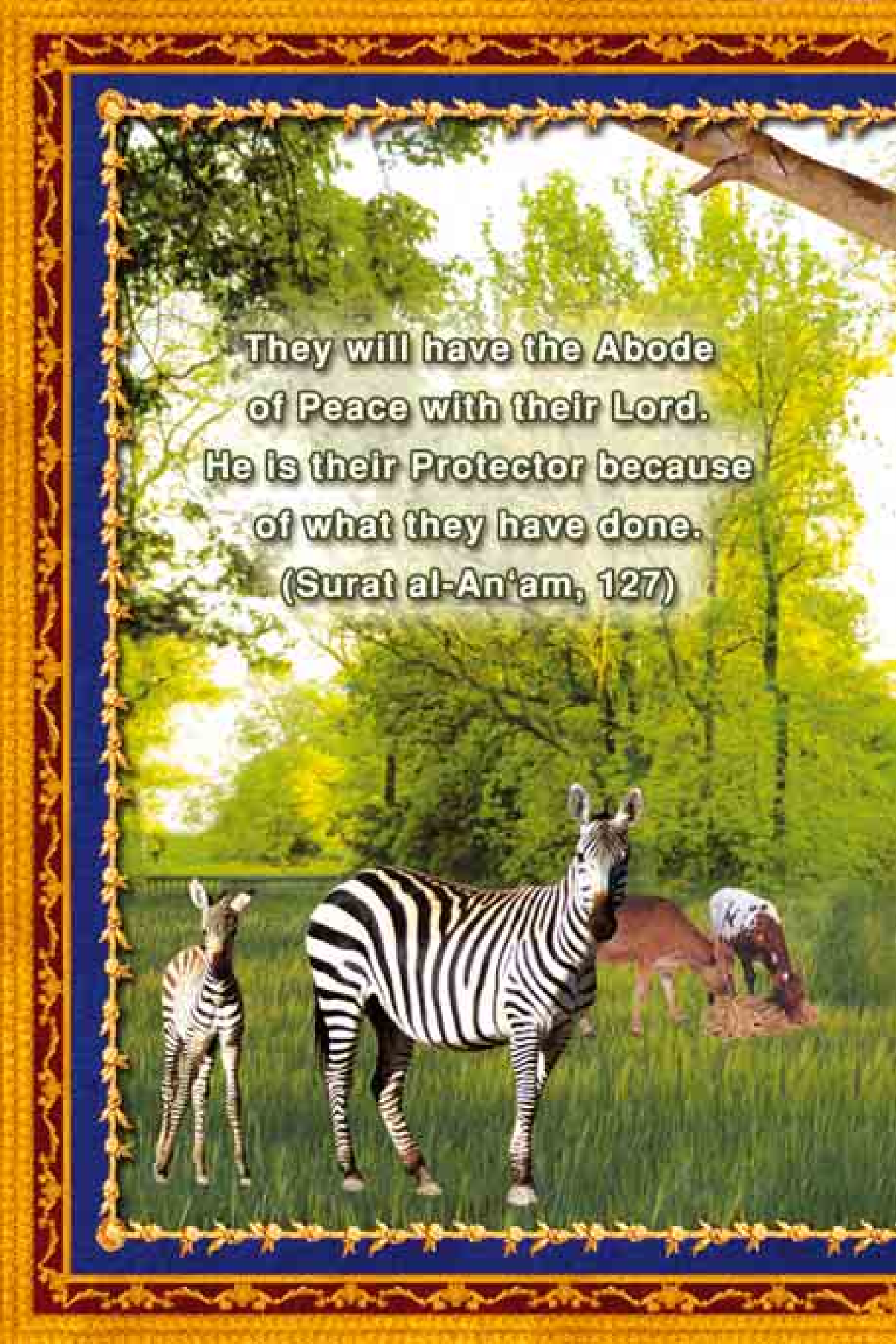
> **When Jesus sensed unbelief on their part, he asked: "Who will be my helpers for [the cause of] Allah?" The disciples said: "We are Allah's helpers. We believe in Allah. Bear witness that we are Muslims. Our Lord, we believe in what You have sent down and have followed the Messenger, so write us down among the witnesses." (Surah Al 'Imran, 52-53)**

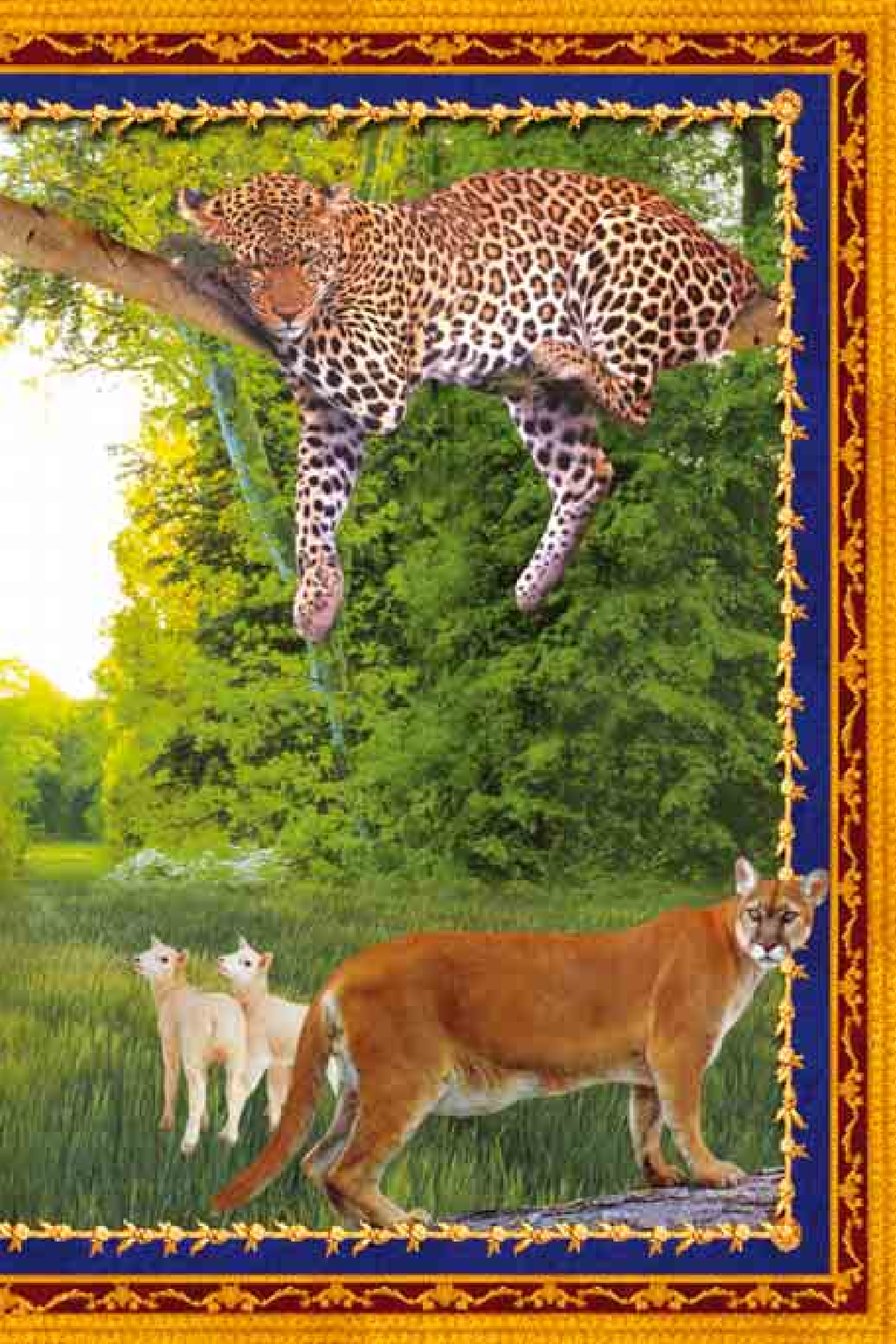
According to the Gospel, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) traveled to all corners of Palestine with his 12 disciples to call people to faith. On this journey, Allah allowed him to perform many miracles. He

healed the sick and disabled, cured people suffering from leprosy, brought sight to those who had been blind from birth, and raised the dead. In the Qur'an, Allah reveals these miracles in the verses below:

> **"I have brought you a Sign from your Lord. I will create the shape of a bird out of clay for you and then breathe into it, and it will be a bird by Allah's permission. I will heal the blind and the leper and bring the dead to life, by Allah's permission. I will tell you what you eat and what you store up in your homes. There is a Sign for you in that if you believe." (Surah Al 'Imran, 49)**
>
> **Remember when Allah said: "Jesus, son of Mary, remember My blessing to you and to your mother when I reinforced you with the Purest Spirit so that you could speak to people in the cradle and when you were fully grown; and when I taught you the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel; and when you created a bird-shape out of clay by My permission, and then breathed into it and it became a bird by My permission; and healed the blind and the leper by My permission; when you brought forth the dead by My permission; and when I held back the Children of Israel from you, when you brought them the Clear Signs and those who did not believe said: 'This is nothing but downright magic.'" (Surat al-Ma'ida, 110)**

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh), by Allah's will, performed great miracles, and many people were impressed by them. However, he always stated that these miracles happened only by the will of Allah and, according to the Bible, he always told the people he healed: "Your faith has saved you." In response, the people praised the Lord when they saw the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) miracles:


They will have the Abode
of Peace with their Lord.
He is their Protector because
of what they have done.
(Surat al-An'am, 127)



Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and laid them at his feet. And he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. (Matthew 15:29-31)

Despite the increasing obstacles and, in particular among the people who suffered from oppression and cruelty, the number of believers began to rise. At the time, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and his disciples had wandered through all of the towns and cities in the land. Meanwhile, the priests and teachers of the law (scribes) began to scheme and plot against the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), who had been telling them of the wrongs inherent in the traditions that they had promoted for years, reminding them of the deviations in the order they had established and calling them to believe only in Allah and to live only for Him. (Luke 22:1-2, John 11:47-53) However, Allah protected the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) from these snares.

Like all other Prophets, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) called his people to believe in Allah, to submit wholeheartedly to Him, to live for His good pleasure, to refrain from sin and evil, and to do good. He reminded them of life's impermanence and of death's proximity, and told them that they would have to answer for all of their deeds in the Hereafter. He called them to worship Allah alone and to fear and mind only Him. The Bible also contains much advice and educational material *(mashal)* in this respect. According to the Gospel, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) advised those who had "little faith" (Matthew 8:26), brought them the good news that "the kingdom of God is near" (Mark 1:15) and asked them to seek Allah's

forgiveness. This dominion is the rule which the Jews expected to be established when the Messiah (pbuh) arrived, a rule that would bring them renewed faith and deliverance.

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) stated that he was sent by Allah to complete what was revelaed to the Prophet Moses (pbuh), remained true to the Mosaic law (the commandments of the Torah) and reprimanded some of the Jews for straying from them or their hypocritical practice. According to the Gospel, he told them: "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me" (John 5:46). The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) called people to return to the essence of Torah. The Gospel of Matthew reveals that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was sent to complete what is revealed to the Prophet Moses (pbuh):

I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17)

Ayone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Sight of God, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the Sight of God. (Matthew 5:19)



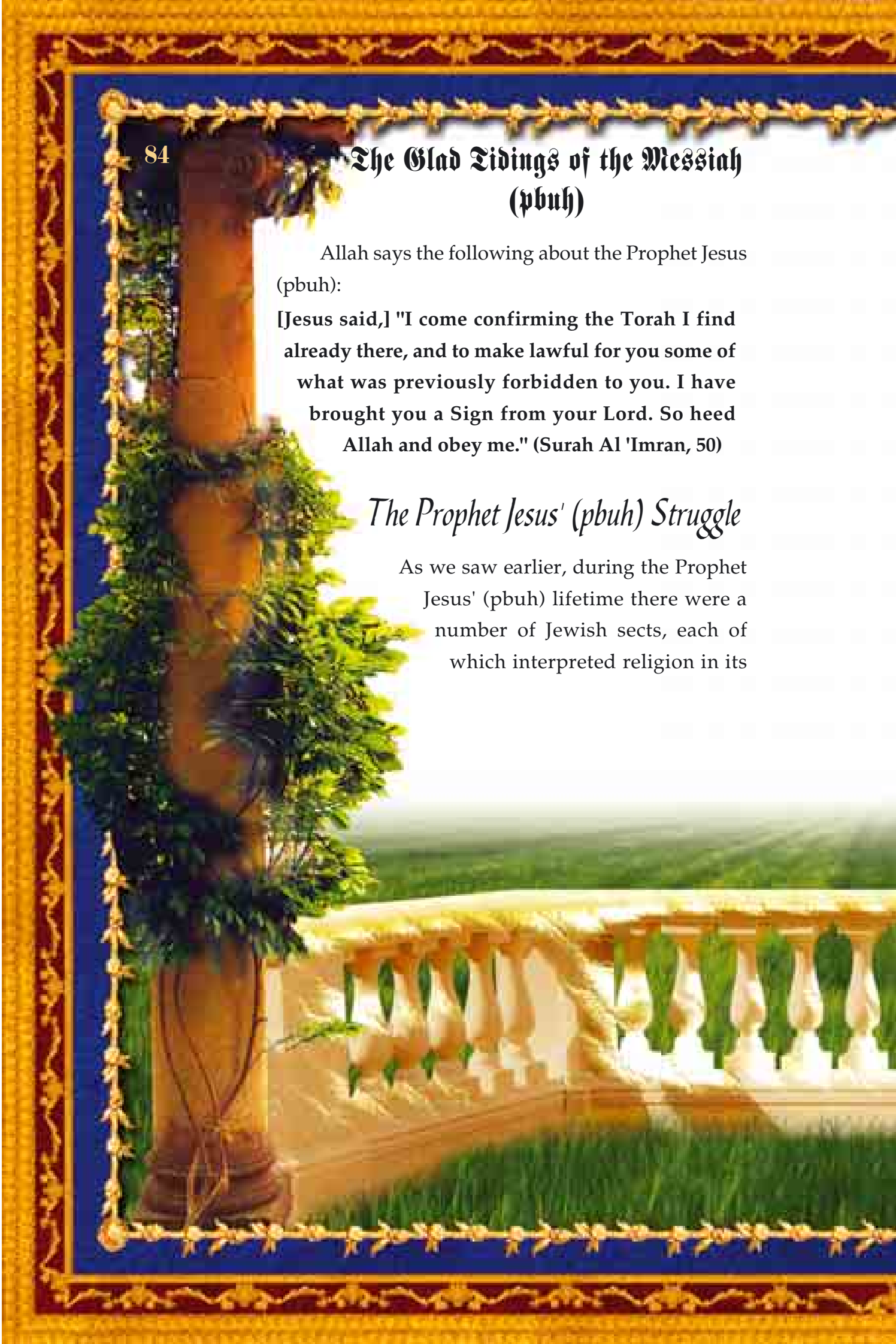
The Glad Tidings of the Messiah (pbuh)

Allah says the following about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh):

[Jesus said,] "I come confirming the Torah I find already there, and to make lawful for you some of what was previously forbidden to you. I have brought you a Sign from your Lord. So heed Allah and obey me." (Surah Al 'Imran, 50)

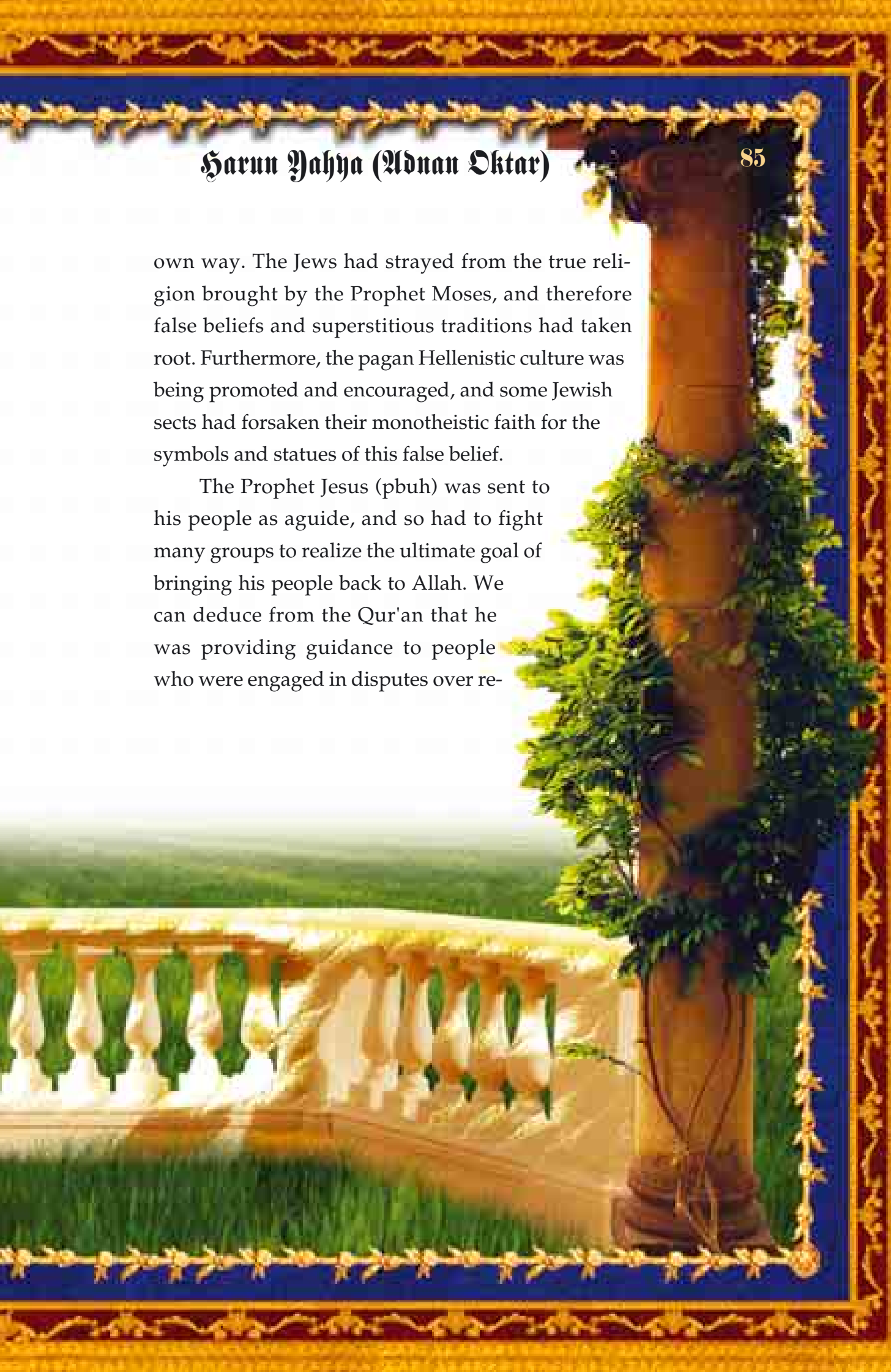
The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Struggle

As we saw earlier, during the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) lifetime there were a number of Jewish sects, each of which interpreted religion in its



own way. The Jews had strayed from the true religion brought by the Prophet Moses, and therefore false beliefs and superstitious traditions had taken root. Furthermore, the pagan Hellenistic culture was being promoted and encouraged, and some Jewish sects had forsaken their monotheistic faith for the symbols and statues of this false belief.

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was sent to his people as aguide, and so had to fight many groups to realize the ultimate goal of bringing his people back to Allah. We can deduce from the Qur'an that he was providing guidance to people who were engaged in disputes over re-



Do they feel secure against Allah's devising? No one feels secure against Allah's devising except for those who are lost.
(Surat al-A'raf, 99)



ligion. From the Gospel, we gather that he primarily called upon false priests, those who denied Allah by ascribing partners to Him and who misled people by religious pretence, to abandon their wrongdoing and believe wholeheartedly in Allah. The Pharisees and the Sadducees, who are often mentioned in the Gospel, are therefore of relevance in this respect. These two opposing sects agreed on one thing only: Their strong discontent with the revelation with which Allah had entrusted to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) for his people. According to the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) true religion, the Sadducees had gone astray because of their materialistic worldview, and the Pharisees were on the wrong path because they had lost their faith by getting bogged down in myths and pretence. These groups turned against the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) as soon as they realized where they stood with him. Allah says in the Qur'an:

> **And when Jesus came with the Clear Signs, he said: "I have come to you with Wisdom and to clarify for you some of the things about which you have differed. Therefore, heed Allah and obey me."(Surat az-Zukhruf, 63)**

As both the Pharisees and the majority of Sadducees had a vested interest in the existing system, and thus a great many of them would not obey the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). They had great authority over the Jewish people and, as priests, enjoyed great respect among them. The false system that they had created had become an institution that was making them rich. They had entered into a close working relationship with the Roman governor, and an important section of Sadducees in particular sought to reduce the tensions between Rome and the people of Judea, and thus were granted many privileges in return. Bearing these circum-

stances in mind, it becomes quite understandable why The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) teachings caused some priests such discomfort: The Prophet Jesus (pbuh), like all other Prophets, targeted the wrongness of the established order, which considered all kinds of evil legitimate. He wanted people to abandon injustice, unfairness, immorality, and idolatrous religious beliefs and to replace them with a life dedicated to serving Allah. He advised people to fear and love Allah in equal measures, to submit to Him, to distance themselves from superstitious rules and dogmatic practices, to worship Allah alone, and to turn only to Him for success in their undertakings. The miracles he performed by Allah's will showed clearly that he was a valued Prophet chosen above all people by Allah, Who supported him with power and superior knowledge. His depth of faith, high morality, superior awareness, and explanations full of insight were greatly admired by the people.



According to the Gospel, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was teaching and rekindling people's faith at the same time by saying that deliverance was nigh for the people and that Allah's rule was imminent. All of this was disturbing news for those who had adopted the pagan culture introduced by Rome and the priests, who had a vested interest in the established order.

The Gospel says that these circles never missed an opportunity to hinder the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) message, but that they were disappointed each time. Some so-called priests became increasingly irritated by his subtle answers, which invalidated their claims, and also by his insightful teachings. His statements about them were their biggest concern, and this became one of the decisive factors that led them to scheme against him. According the Gospel of Luke, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) exposed their frauds to the public:



"Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." (Luke 20:46-47)



Some Jewish priests in the past had altered Torah's commandments and added new ones to serve their own interest. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) invalidated these false commandments in his quest to eradicate the erroneous traditions, myths, and man-made rules and laws that had, in effect, caused the commandments revealed to the Prophet Moses(pbuh) to be ignored. According to the Gospel of Mark, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) specifically mentioned this to the Pharisees:

He replied [to the Pharisees and the teachers of the law]: "…You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men. … Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." (Mark 7:6-13)



The Jordan Valley.

The Pharisees believed that they had to pledge one-tenth of their income to Allah and abided by this rule. But it had become a tradition, whereas before it had been an act of worship. The Gospel of Luke records the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) reprimand:

"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the

most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it." (Luke 11:42-44)

"... And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them." (Luke 11:46)

"Woe to you experts in law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering." (Luke 11:52)

Such public warnings and the so-called priests' public humiliation because of their immorality increased their unwise hostility toward the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). According to Luke, the Pharisees and the religious scholars began to oppose him fiercely after Jesus (pbuh) said the words recorded above (Luke 11:53-54).

As Allah makes clear in the Qur'an, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) called the Children of Israel to return to the Mosaic law and to believe in Allah wholeheartedly. The Gospel of Matthew and the Qur'an contain some strikingly similar words about the unbe-



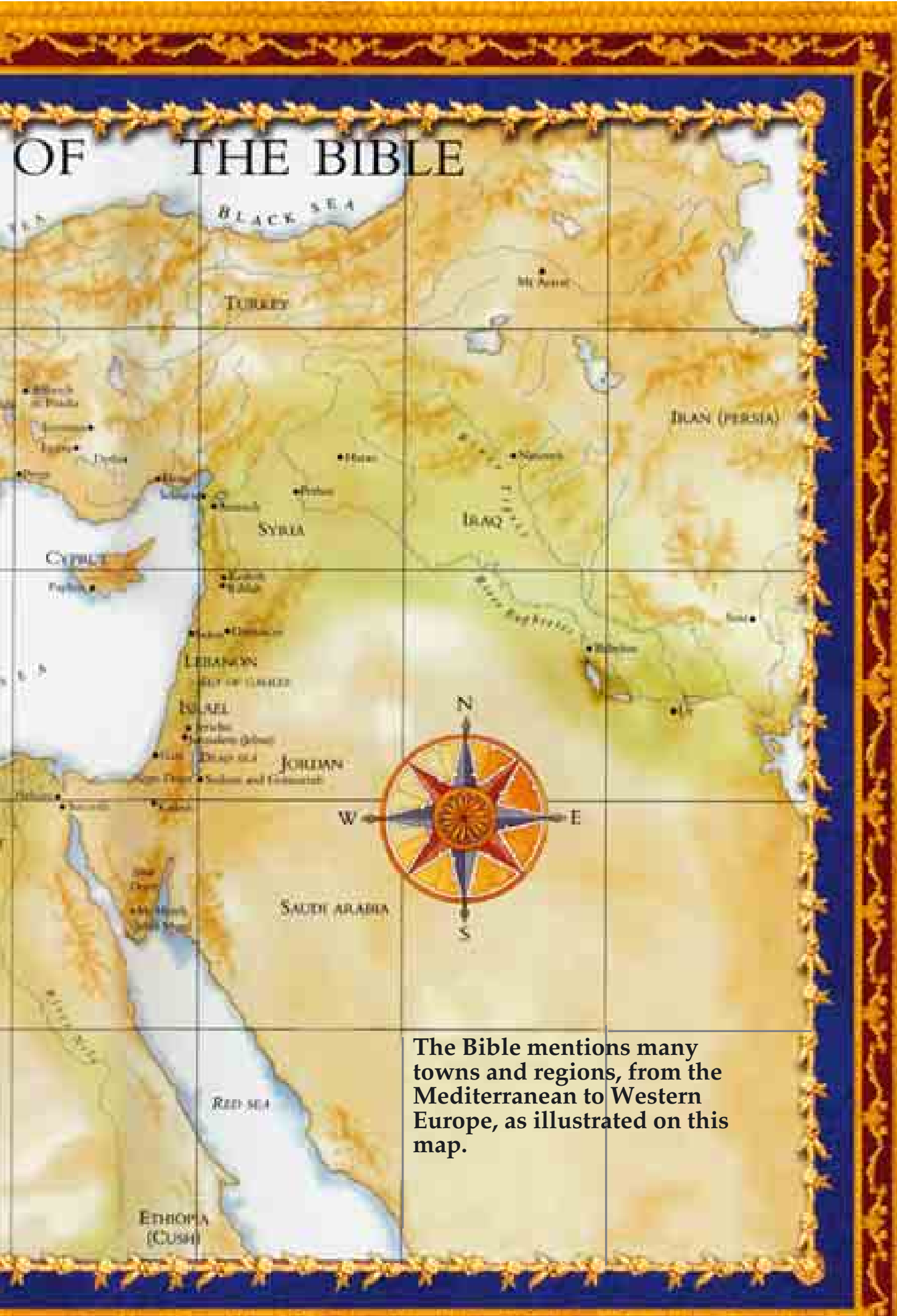
lievers, **"They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear"** (Surat al-A'raf, 179). In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the following words that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) said about some Jews:

> *"You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." (Matthew 13:14-15)*

Prophets fulfilled their duty given by Allah in the best possible way and used all of their resources and energy to invite their people to the path of guidance. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) displayed extraordinary patience in the face of all the conspiracies and attacks directed against him. He trusted in Allah and continued communicating His message and, even though he had only a few supporters, he defeated his opponents every time. He tried many things in order to return religion to its original purity, to rid it




LANDS
ITALY
BULGARIA
GREECE
SICILY
MALTA
CRETE
THE HOLY LAND
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
KEY
SCALE
1 inch 25 miles
25mm 37km
SCALE
1 inch 150 miles
25mm 240km



The Bible mentions many towns and regions, from the Mediterranean to Western Europe, as illustrated on this map.

of all the myths and false practices that had entered it over time. By means of the insight and superior understanding Allah gave to him, he was a very effective public speaker and was able to give guiding examples.

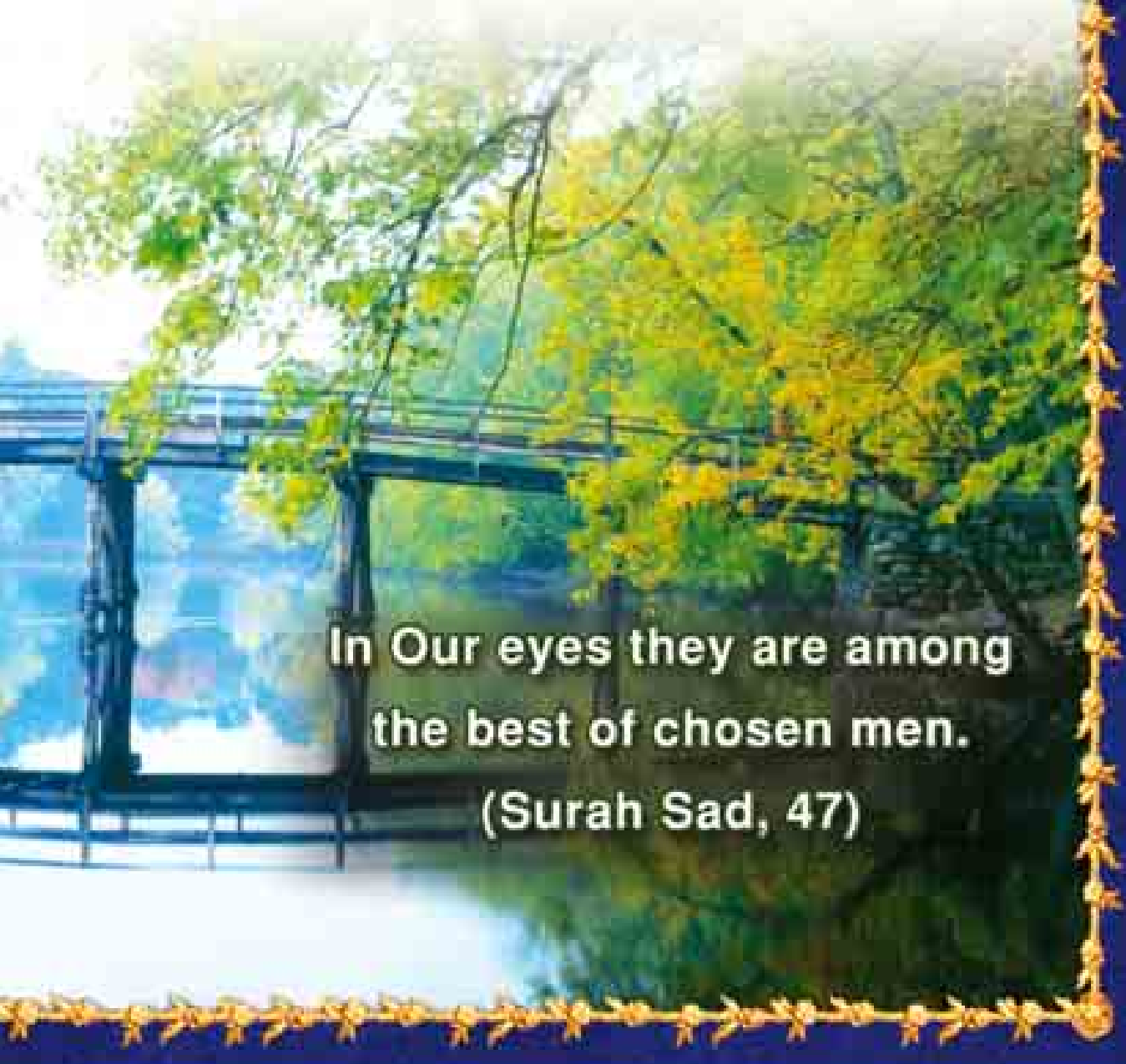
The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) called his people to worship Allah alone; brought the good news of the rule of religious morality; fought against false beliefs, myths, and idolatry; and explained that this worldly life is a test. He made every conceivable effort to



correct his people's flawed sense of morality and was himself a role model of high character. However, these activities only made his enemies fiercer and led them to plot his death.

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Superior Character

The hadith literature reveals many important truths about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Some hadiths inform us that he was of





medium height, had white skin with a hue of red, straight hair, and was very handsome. He had shoulder-length hair and wore a woolen cloak and sandals made of bark. He often removed himself from this world, had a strong desire for the Hereafter, and spent much time worshipping Allah.[6] Other hadiths describe this astonishingly handsome and holy man as follows:

While I was asleep, I saw myself (in a dream) making tawaf (circling) around the Ka'bah. I saw a brown-skinned man with straight hair being supported by two men, and with water dripping from his head. I asked: "Who is this?" They said: "The son of Mary." (Sahih Bukhari)

When you see him, you will recognize him. He is of medium height, and his coloring is reddish-white. He will be wearing two garments, and his hair will look wet although no water will have wet it. (Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Musnad)

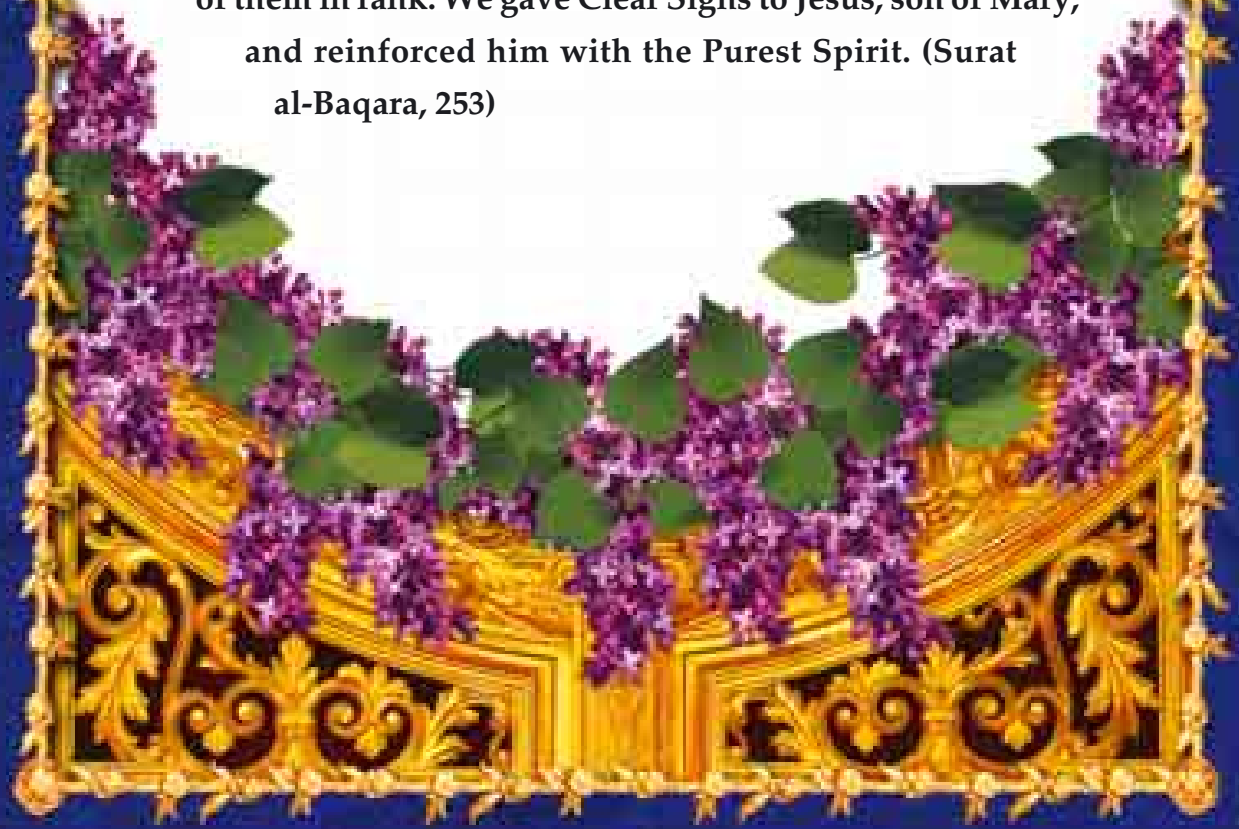
Like every chosen and sent Prophet, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) had the highest form of character. One of his most distinguishing features was his high standard of morals and noble personality, which had an immediate effect on people. In addition, he had a strong personality due to his complete trust, reliance, and faith in Allah; was decisive and courageous; and could not be manipulated by society. His superiority is revealed in the following verses:

This is the argument We gave to Abraham against his people. We raise in rank anyone We will. Your Lord is All-

Wise, All-Knowing. We gave him Isaac and Jacob, each of whom We guided. And before him We had guided Noah. And among his descendants were David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses, and Aaron. That is how We recompense the good-doers. And Zechariah, John, Jesus, and Elias. All of them were among the righteous. And Ishmael, Elisha, Jonah, and Lot. All of them We favored over all beings. And some of their forebears, descendants, and brothers; We chose them and guided them to a straight path. That is Allah's guidance. He guides by it those of His servants He wills ... (Surat al-An'am, 83-88)

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was also a just, modest, compassionate, sincere, honest, selfless person and a chosen Prophet. In one verse, Allah says the following about him:

These Messengers: We favored some of them over others. Allah spoke directly to some of them and raised up some of them in rank. We gave Clear Signs to Jesus, son of Mary, and reinforced him with the Purest Spirit. (Surat al-Baqara, 253)



When we look at the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) life, we can see his high morality. First of all, he was a discerning leader who taught the true religion to his people. He was the most obedient to Allah's commandments and recommendations, and was a guide who rid people of myths. In the Qur'an Allah reveals that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was diligently fulfilling all of the requirements of worship and morality:

> **He [Jesus] said: "I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Book and made me a Prophet. He has made me blessed wherever I am, directed me to perform prayer and give alms as long as I live, and to show devotion to my mother." (Surah Maryam, 30-32)**

Throughout his life, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) spoke wisely and effectively and knew right from wrong. He replied with insight and reason to all of his enemies' questions posed to so-called catch him and defeated all of their attempts they made with their shallow minds. He remained true to Allah, irrespective of his people's attitude toward him, drew strength from his strong faith and devotion, and explained Allah's existence in the most effective way.

Like all other Prophets, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) used plain, clear, and intelligible language when preaching. His allegories moved people's conscience, and encouraged them to reflect deeply and to behave according to Allah's good pleasure. The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) love for Allah, as well as his exuberant faith and diligence in following Allah's orders, is evident from his teachings. His method of preaching shows clearly that Allah chose him above all other people.

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Ministry

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) life was full of miracles that our Lord willed for him from the moment of his birth until the day he was raised to Allah's Presence. In the Qur'an Allah reveals some of the miracles, all of which he performed by the will of Him:

> **Remember when Allah said: "Jesus, son of Mary, remember My blessing to you and to your mother when I reinforced you with the Purest Spirit so that you could speak to people in the cradle and when you were fully grown; and when I taught you the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel." (Surat al-Ma'ida, 110)**

As a Messenger to the Children of Israel, saying: "I have brought you a Sign from your Lord. I will create the shape of a bird out of clay

for you and then breathe into it, and it will be a bird by Allah's permission. I will heal the blind and the leper, and bring the dead to life, by Allah's permission. I will tell you what you eat and what you store up in your homes. There is a Sign for you in that if you are believers." (Surah Al 'Imran, 49)

Allah reveals in the Qur'an several of the miracles associated with the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). These miracles took place by our Lord's Will. He was conceived without a father, spoke in the cradle, had full knowledge of Allah's holy books (the Torah, the Gospel, and the Qur'an), made a likeness of a bird out of mud and enabled it to fly away by breathing into it, healed the blind from birth and the leper, raised the dead, knew what people ate and what they saved, and foretold our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) by the name "Ahmad."

Despite these miracles and his efforts to teach Allah's revelation, most of his people continued to deny him. Like the other nations mentioned in the Qur'an, these unbelievers unwisely said that he was only doing magic tricks because he was no more than a magician:

And when Jesus son of Mary said: "O Children of Israel, I am the Messenger of Allah to you, confirming the Torah that came before me and giving you the good news of a Messenger after me,



Giotto di Bondone's fresco, "Christ Disputing with the Elders" (1302-1305) in the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy. This famous painting depicts the respect of the elders for the Prophet Jesus (pbuh).

whose name is Ahmad." When he brought them the Clear Signs, they said: "This is downright magic." (Surat as-Saff, 6)

Allah reveals in the Qur'an that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) did not come to wipe out Judaism, but to affirm and purify religion of the myths that had crept in over the centuries and to return it to its original purity. Allah also sent him to resolve the issues disputed

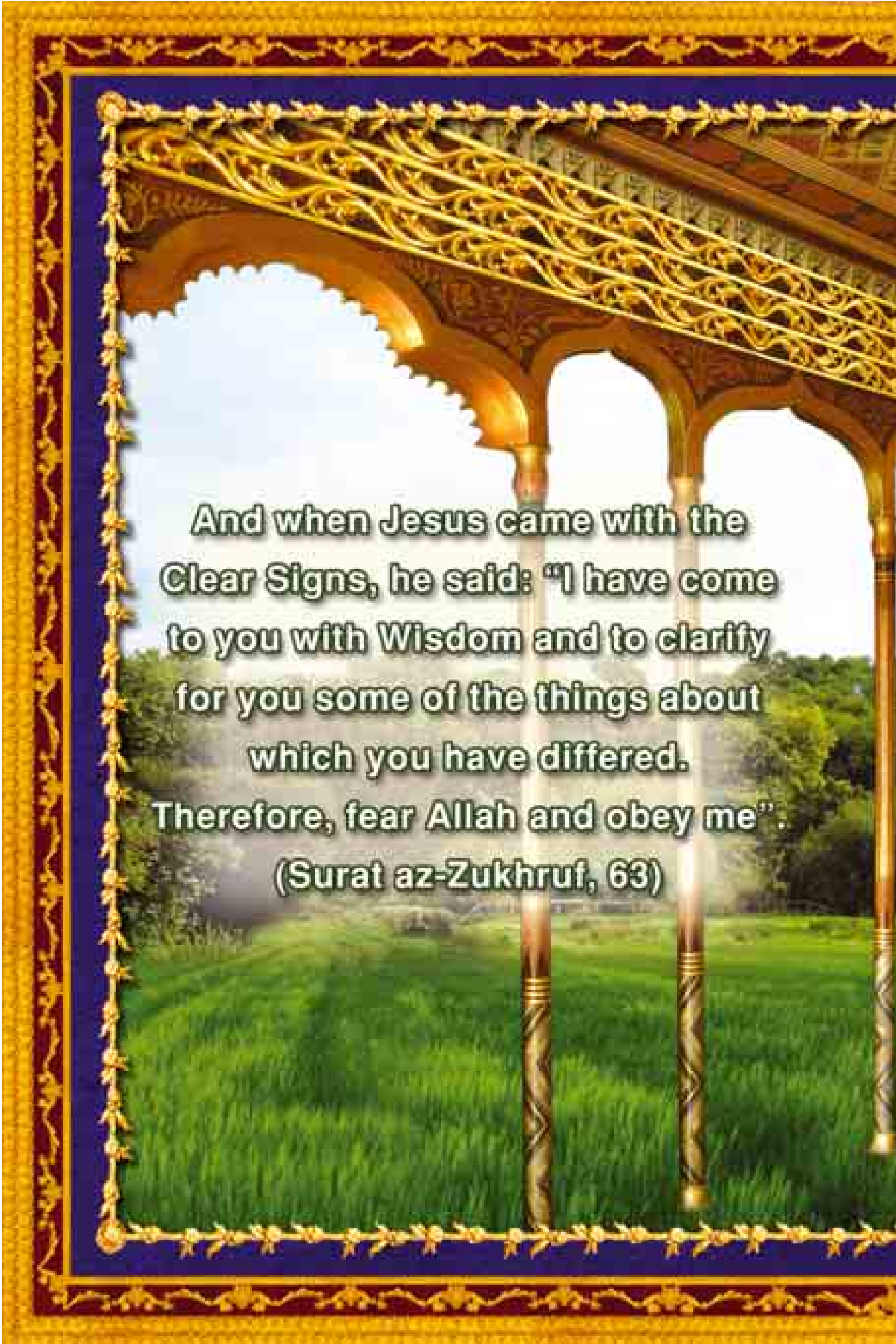
over by the various Jewish sects, which we examined earlier in the book. Allah says:

> **[Jesus said:] "I come confirming the Torah I find already here, and to make lawful for you some of what was previously forbidden to you. I have brought you a Sign from your Lord. So have fear [and awe] of Allah and obey me." (Surah Al 'Imran, 50)**
>
> **And when Jesus came with the Clear Signs, he said: "I have come to you with Wisdom and to clarify for you some of the things about which you have differed. Therefore, heed Allah and obey me." (Surat az-Zukhruf, 63)**

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) confirmed the matters of faith mentioned in the Torah and also brought the Gospel, Allah's last revelation to humanity, to guide and advise his people.

> **And We sent Jesus son of Mary following in their [the Prophets'] footsteps, confirming the Torah that came before him. We gave him the Gospel containing guidance and light, confirming the Torah that came before it, and as guidance and admonition for those who guard against evil. The people of the Gospel should judge by what Allah sent down in it. Those who do not judge by what Allah has sent down, such people are deviators. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 46-47)**

Very few people answered the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) call at the beginning, for his call sought to abolish the privileges of the priestly class, which profited from the myths and traditions that had been established many years ago, and also those members of the ruling class who did not recognize Allah's sovereignty. The pressure they applied, when combined with their threats, scared the majority of the common people and prevented them from approaching the


And when Jesus came with the
Clear Signs, he said: "I have come
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for you some of the things about
which you have differed.
Therefore, fear Allah and obey me".
(Surat az-Zukhruf, 63)



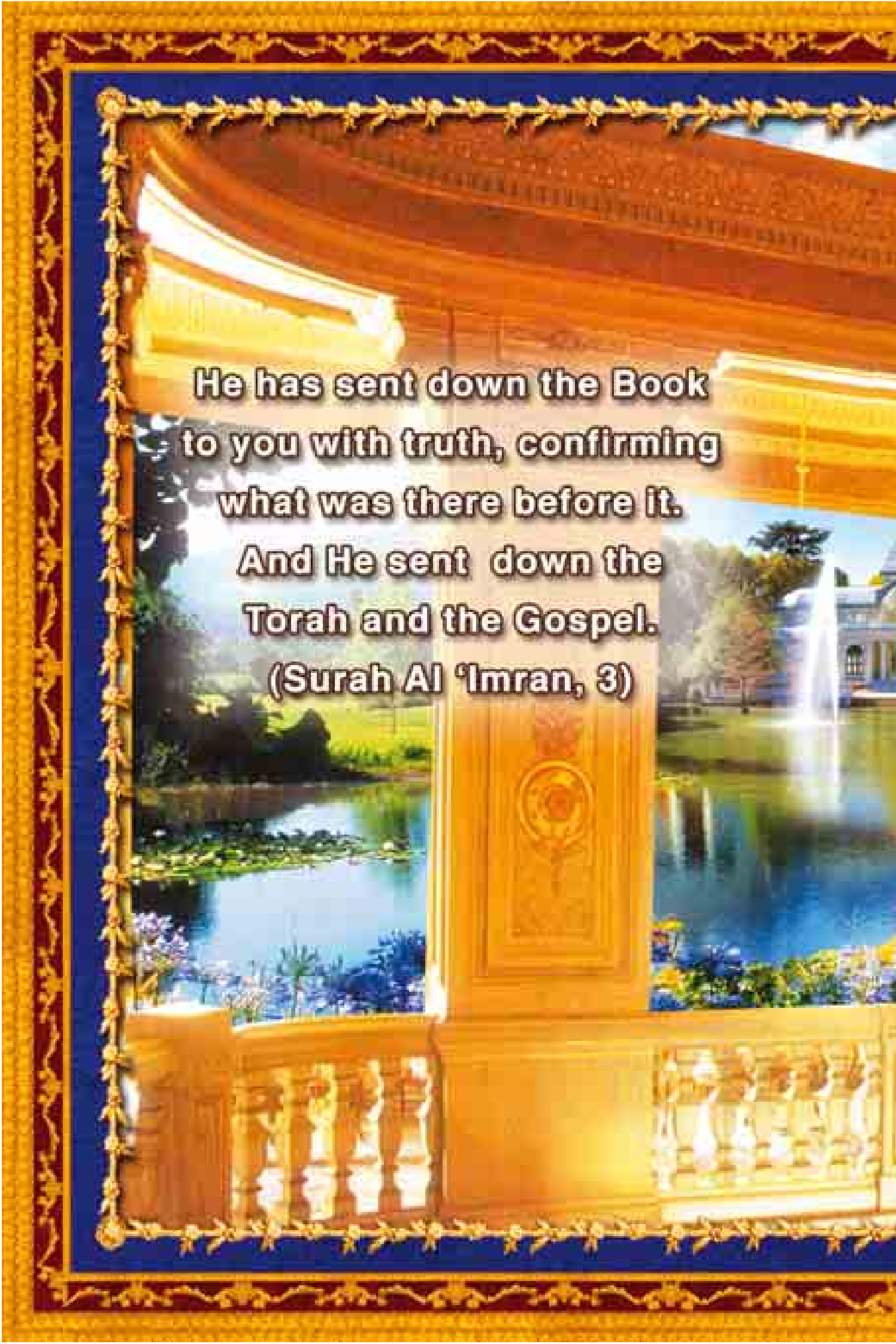
Prophet Jesus (pbuh). When the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) teachings began to spread and the number of his followers increased, the number of his opponents increased accordingly. In their own way, more cowardly traps were prepared and more plans were made to discredit and defeat him. Such plots were nothing new, for all Prophets encountered such hostility. Allah reveals in the Qur'an the unbelievers' maliciousness toward the Messengers in the following terms:

> **Why then, whenever a Messenger came to you with something your lower selves did not desire, did you grow arrogant and deny some of them and murder others? (Surat al-Baqara, 87)**

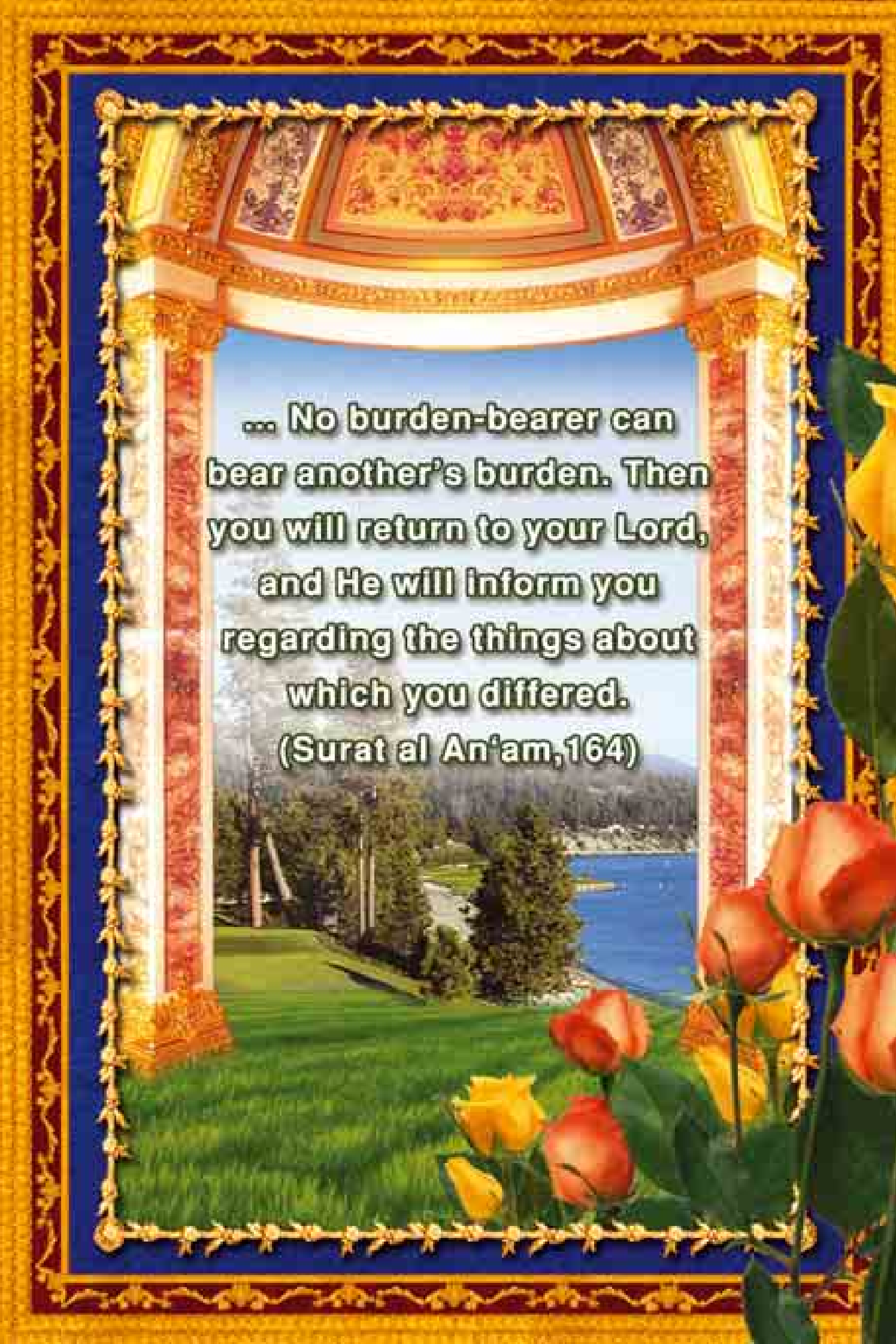
Society began to be divided by those who believed in the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and those who denied him, and the difference between the two groups became more and more apparent. On the one side was Allah's Messenger, who was teaching the true religion and calling people to believe in the one and only Allah, and on the other side was a group of people who had decided not to believe in him regardless of his miracles or proofs, even if they saw them with their own eyes. His enemies revealed themselves clearly. Probably there were people who were with him and heard him, but who later denied him. Allah reveals such a situation in the following verse:

> **"The various factions among them differed..." (Surat az-Zukhruf, 65)**

For this reason, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) chose his disciples from those believers whom he could really trust. Allah reveals:


He has sent down the Book
to you with truth, confirming
what was there before it.
And He sent down the
Torah and the Gospel.
(Surah Al 'Imran, 3)


"I (Jesus) come confirming
the Torah I find already there,
and to make lawful for you
some of what was previously
forbidden to you"...
(Surah Al 'Imran, 50)

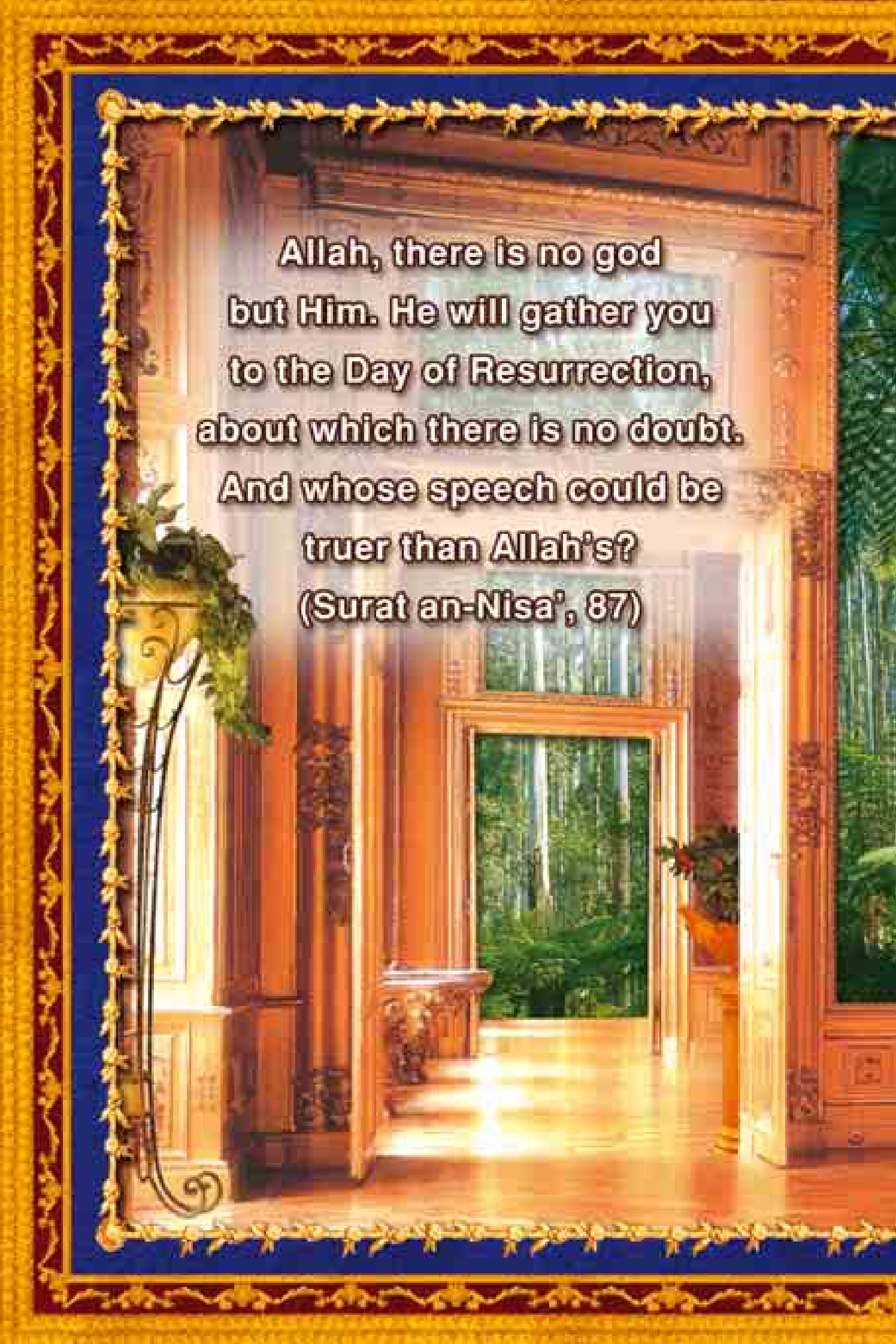

... No burden-bearer can
bear another's burden. Then
you will return to your Lord,
and He will inform you
regarding the things about
which you differed.
(Surat al An'am,164)

When Jesus sensed unbelief on their part, he asked: "Who will be my helpers for [the cause of] Allah?" The disciples said: "We are Allah's helpers. We believe in Allah. Bear witness that we are Muslims." (Surah Al 'Imran, 52)

Allah reveals in the Qur'an that the unbelievers devised a plot to take the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) life. According to some sources, a group of bigoted priests bribed Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples, to betray him, after which they would arrest the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and hand him over to the Romans. According to the same sources, the priests did not have the power to sentence someone to death and so had to make another plan to agitate the Roman regime. Thus, they portrayed the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) as being hostile to the Roman leadership, for the Romans were highly sensitive and ruthless when confronted with dissidents. But these priests failed, for the Qur'an relates:

They [unbelievers] planned and Allah planned. But Allah is the best of planners. (Surah Al 'Imran, 54)

As revealed in the verses, they plotted and moved to kill the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). However, their plot failed and they ended up killing a look-alike. During this event, Allah raised the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) up to His Presence:


Allah, there is no god
but Him. He will gather you
to the Day of Resurrection,
about which there is no doubt.
And whose speech could be
truer than Allah's?
(Surat an-Nisa', 87)

And [on account of] their saying: "We killed the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, Messenger of Allah." They did not kill him and they did not crucify him, but it was made to seem so to them. Those who argue about him are in doubt about it. They have no real knowledge of it, just conjecture. But they certainly did not kill him. (Srat an-Nisa', 157)

Many people believe in the widespread hypothesis that the Romans crucified the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). That Roman soldiers and Jewish priests who arrested the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) killed him on the cross is a widespread fallacy. The majority of Christians believes this fallacy, as well as that he was resurrected three days later and, after several brief meetings with his disciples and others, ascended into the heavens. The fact is, however, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) did not die or was martyred. Indeed, Allah reveals this in the Qur'an. The reality revealed in the verses is clear. The Romans, abetted by Jewish agitation, attempted to kill the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) but did not succeed. The expression "but it was made to seem so to them" reveals this fact. Allah showed them a look-alike and raised the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) up to His presence. Our Lord also reveals that those who made that claim had no knowledge of the truth.

In the early years of Christianity, several views on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) destiny emerged. In the subsequent centuries and until the articles of faith were fully formulated at the Council of Nicea (325), these ideological differences continued to persist, and movements that claimed that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) had not been crucified were accused of heresy and its members were persecuted.

THE QUR'ANIC ACCOUNT OF THE PROPHET JESUS' (PBUH) ASCENT TO ALLAH'S PRESENCE

Examining the words used in the narratives relating how the Prophets died and the verses dealing with the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) ascent to Allah's Presence reveals an important fact: The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) did not die like the other prophets did, nor was he murdered by the unbelievers. Rather, our Lord took him up to His Presence. In this chapter, we will examine the Arabic words used to express how the Prophets died and how Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was raised up to Allah's Presence, and investigate how the Qur'an uses them.

As we will see in greater detail later on, the Qur'an uses qataloohu (to kill), *maata* (to die), *halaka* (to perish), salaboohu (they crucified him), or some other special expressions to describe the death or murder of the Prophets. In the case of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), Allah clearly states that he was not killed in any of those ways, for: **"They did not kill him (*wa ma qataloohu*) and did not crucify him (*wa ma salaboohu*)."** Allah reveals that people were shown a look-alike and that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was raised up to His Presence, as follows:

> **When Allah said: "Jesus, I will take you back *(mutawaffeeka)* and raise you up *(wa raafi'uka)* to Me and purify you of those who are unbelievers. And I will place the people who follow you above those who are**

unbelievers until the Day of Resurrection..." (Surah Al 'Imran, 55)

The following are the ways in which the words referring to death in the Qur'an and the word *tawaffa* in Surah Al 'Imran are used:

1) Tawaffa: To Cause To Die, To Take in One's Sleep, or To Take Back

The word *tawaffa* used in Surah Al 'Imran 3 and translated as "taking back" here and "causing to die" in some Qur'an translations, has various connotations. Examining the Arabic verses clearly reveals that these connotations of the word should be considered while applying it to the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) situation. Allah describes his being taken back to Allah in the words that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will say on the Day of Judgment:

> **[Jesus said], "I said to them nothing but what You ordered me to say: 'Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.' I was a witness against them as long as I remained among them, but when You took me back to You *(tawaffa)*, You were the One watching over them. You are the Witness of all things." (Surat al-Ma'ida, 117)**

In Arabic the word that is translated in some translations of this verse as "You have caused me to die" is *tawaffa* and comes from the root *wafa*—to fulfil. *Tawaffa* does not actually mean "death" but the act of "taking the self back" either in sleep, in death or as in the case of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) being taken back into the Presence of Allah. From the Qur'an again, we understand that "taking the self back" does not necessarily mean death. For instance, it can mean "taking back the self while one is asleep," as indicated in the following verse:

> **It is He Who takes you back to Himself *(yatawaffaakum)* at night, while knowing the things you perpetrate by day, and then wakes you up again, so that a specified term may be fulfilled. (Surat al-An'am, 60)**

The word used for "take back" in this verse is the same as the one used in Surah Al 'Imran 55. In other words, in the verse above, the word *tawaffa* is used and it is obvious that one does not die in one's sleep. Therefore, what is meant here is, again, "taking the self back." In the following verse, the same word is used like this:

Allah takes back people's selves *(yatawaffaa)* when their death *(mawtihaa)* arrives and those who have not yet died, while they are asleep *(lam tamut)*. He keeps hold of those whose death *(mawt)* has been decreed and sends the others back for a specified term. (Surat az-Zumar, 42)

As this verse clarifies, Allah takes back the self of the one who is asleep, yet He sends back the selves of those whose deaths have yet not been decreed. In this context, in one's sleep one does not die, in the sense in which we perceive death. Only for a temporary period, the self leaves the body and remains in another dimension. When we wake up, the self returns to the body.[7]

Imam al-Qurtubi makes clear that there are three meanings to the term wafat which is from the same root as *tawaffa*:the wafat of death, the *wafat* of sleep, and last, the wafat of being raised up to Allah, as in the case of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh).

2) Qatala: To Kill

The Qur'an uses qatala to mean "to kill," as in the following verse:

Pharaoh said: "Let me kill (aqtulu) Moses and let him call upon his Lord! I am afraid that he may change your religion and bring about corruption in the land." (Surah Ghafir, 26)

In Arabic, "let me kill Moses" is *aqtulu Musa*, a phrase that is derived from the verb *qatala*. In another verse, the same word is used in the following way:

... [That was because they] killed (*yaqtuloona*) the Prophets without any right to do so. (Surat al-Baqara, 61)

The expression yaqtuloona (they killed) is also derived from *qatala*. The translation is clearly "to kill."

The verses below speak of the deaths of the Prophets, and the usage of the verb *qatala* is marked. All words in brackets are derivatives of this verb.

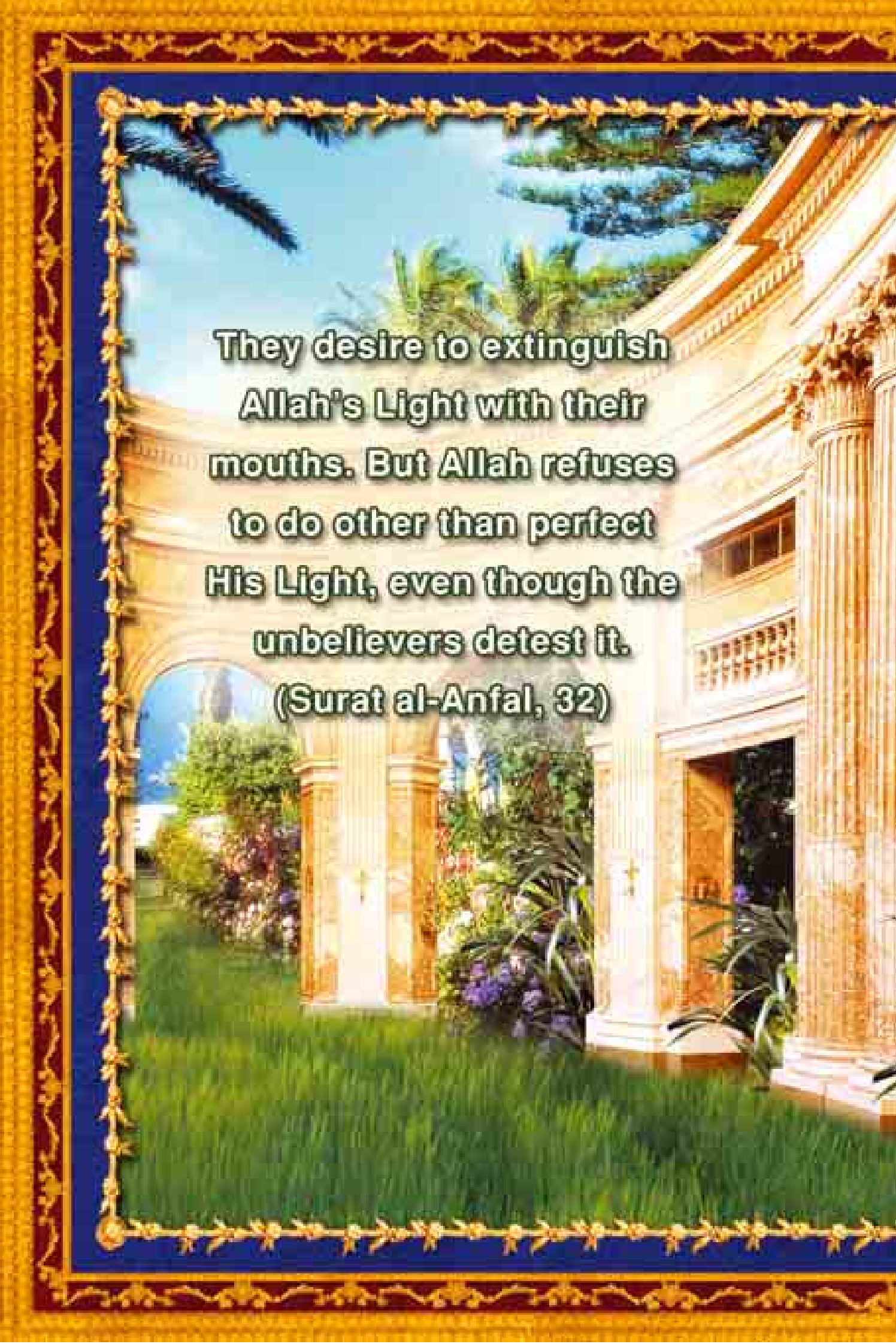
We will write down what they said and their killing (wa qatlahum) of the Prophets without any right to do so. (Surah Al 'Imran, 181)

Say: "Why, then, if you are believers, did you previously kill *(taqtuloona)* the Prophets of Allah?" (Surat al-Baqara, 91)

As for those who reject Allah's Signs, and kill *(yaqtuloona)* the Prophets without any right to do so, and kill *(yaqtuloona)* those who command justice... (Surah Al 'Imran, 21)

"Kill *(uqtuloo)* Joseph or expel him to some land." (Surah Yusuf, 9)




They desire to extinguish
Allah's Light with their
mouths. But Allah refuses
to do other than perfect
His Light, even though the
unbelievers detest it.
(Surat al-Anfal, 32)



..."Moses, the Council is conspiring to kill you *(li yaqtulooka)*." (Surat al-Qasas, 20)

The only answer of his [Abraham's] people was to say: "Kill *(uqtuloohu)* him or burn him!" (Surat an-Nur, 24)

3) Halaka: To Perish

Another word used to denote the act of killing is halaka. It also is used to mean "to perish, to be destroyed, or to die," as in the verse given below:

... when he [Joseph] died *(halaka)*, you said: "Allah will never send another Messenger after him." (Surah Ghafir, 34)

The phrase idha *halaka* is translated as "when he died." meaning "to die."

4) Mawt: Death

Another word used to relate a Prophet's death is *mawt*, a noun derived from the verb *maata* (to die), as follows:

Then when We decreed that he [Prophet Solomon] should die

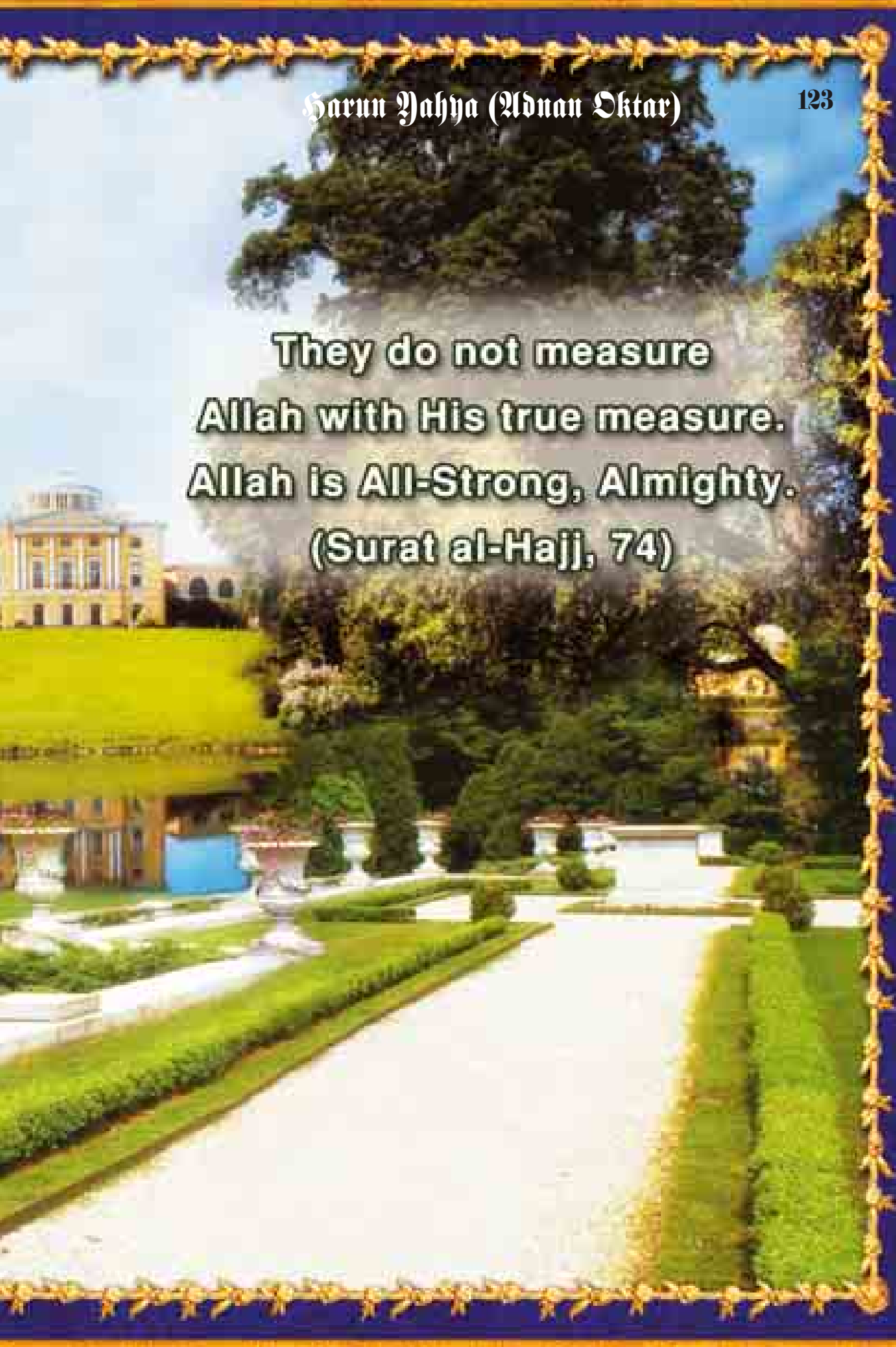
***(mawt)*, nothing divulged his death *(mawtihi)* to them except the worm that ate his staff. (Surah Saba', 14)**

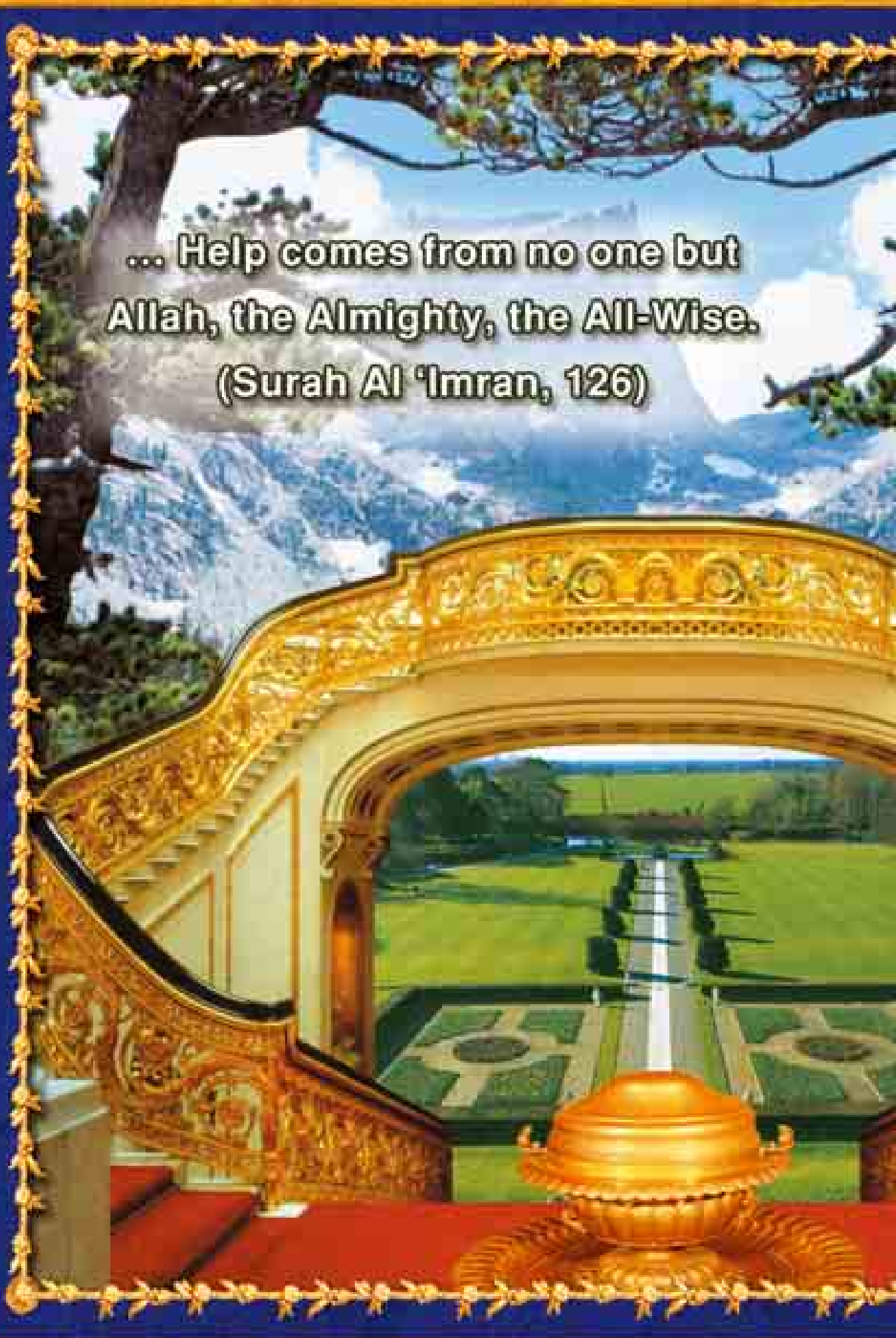
In the following verse, another form of the verb is used:

Peace be upon him [Prophet John] the day he was born, the day he dies *(yamootu)*, and the day he is raised up again alive. (Surah Maryam, 15)

The word *yamootu* is translated here as "they day he dies," and the same word is used (in the form of a noun) to relate the Prophet Jacob's death:




They do not measure
Allah with His true measure.
Allah is All-Strong, Almighty.
(Surat al-Hajj, 74)


... Help comes from no one but
Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise.
(Surah Al 'Imran, 126)



Or were you present when death *(mawt)* came to Jacob? (Surat al Baqara, 133)

In another verse, the verbs *qatala* (in the passive form *qutila)* and *maata* are used together:

Muhammad is only a Messenger, and he has been preceded by other Messengers. If he were to die *(maata)* or be killed *(qutila)*, would you turn on your heels? (Surah Al 'Imran, 4)

Other forms of the verb are used in other verses to denote the death of Prophets:

She exclaimed: "Oh if only I had died *(mittu)* before this time and was something discarded and forgotten!" (Surah Maryam, 23)

We did not give any human being before you immortality *(khuld)*. And if you die *(mitta)*, will they then be immortal? (Surat al- Anbiya', 34)

"He Who will cause my death *(yumeetunee)*, then give me life." (Surat ash-Shura, 81)

5) Khalid: Immortal

The word *khalid* means immortality, permanence, and continued existence, as in the following verse:

We did not give them bodies that did not eat food, nor were they immortal *(khalideena)*. (Surat al-Anbiya', 8)

6) Salaba: To Crucify

Another word used in the Qur'an to relate death is *salaba* (to crucify). This verb has various meanings (e.g., to hang, to crucify, to execute) and is used in the following ways:

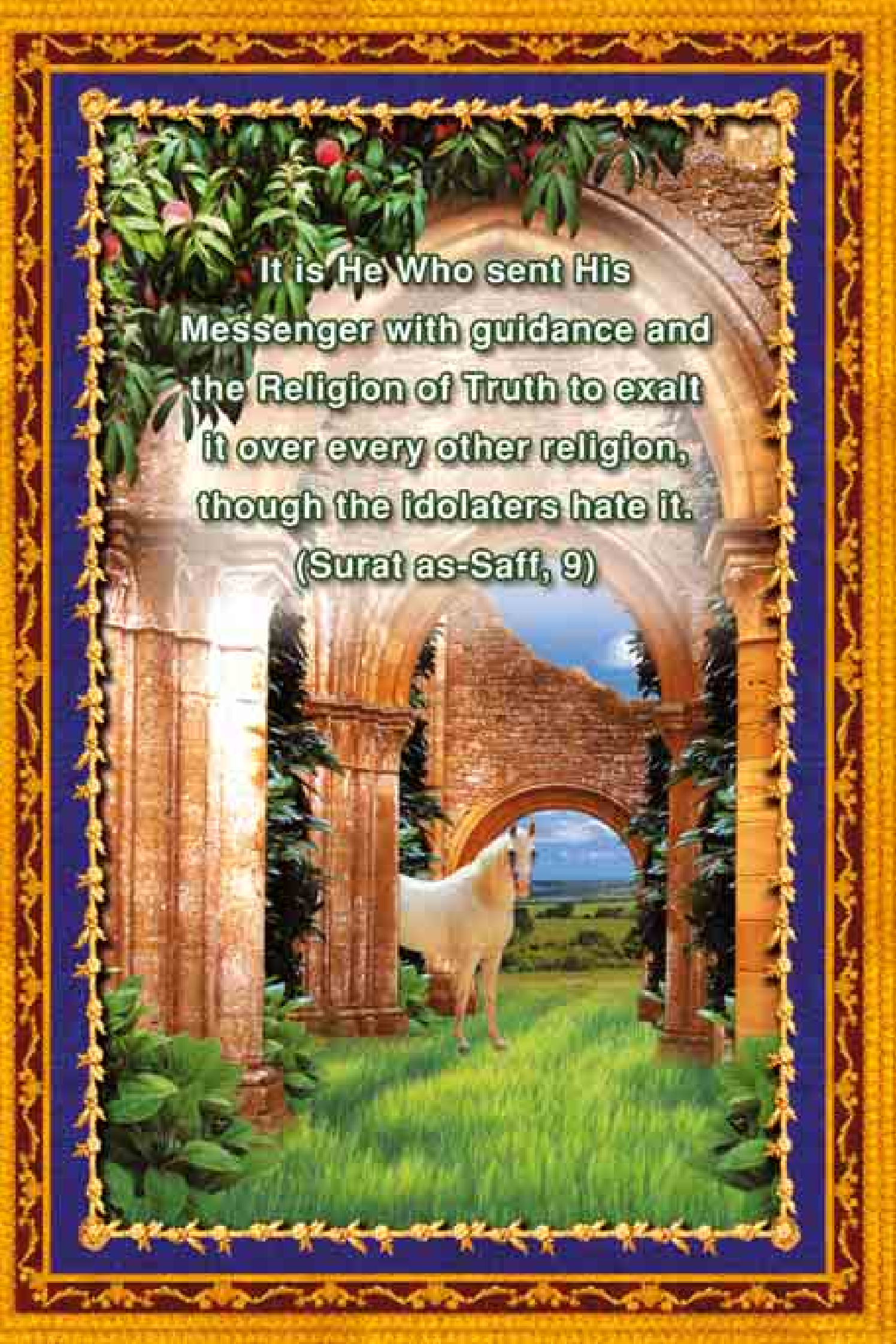
They did not kill him and they did not crucify him *(wa maa salaboohu)*. (Surat an-Nisa', 157)

[Joseph said:] "One of you will serve his lord with wine, the other of you will be crucified *(yuslabu)*." (Surah Yusuf, 41)

They should be killed or crucified *(yusallaboo)*. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 33)

[Pharaoh said:] "I will cut off your alternate hands and feet, and then I will crucify *(la usallibannakum)* every one of you." (Surat al-A'raf, 124)

As the verses show, the words used to express the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) situation are altogether different to those used to describe the deaths of the other Prophets. Allah states that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was neither killed nor crucified, that a look-alike was killed in his place, and that he was taken back (in other words that his soul was taken) and raised up to His Presence. When talking of the Prophet Jesus'(pbuh), the Qur'an uses *tawaffa* (to take the soul) whereas when talking of the other Prophets, it uses *qataloohu* or maata (and its derivatives) to mean "death" in the conventional sense. This information shows us yet again that the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) situation was extraordinary.


It is He Who sent His
Messenger with guidance and
the Religion of Truth to exalt
it over every other religion,
though the idolaters hate it.
(Surat as-Saff, 9)

THE PROPHET JESUS (PBUH) WILL COME AGAIN

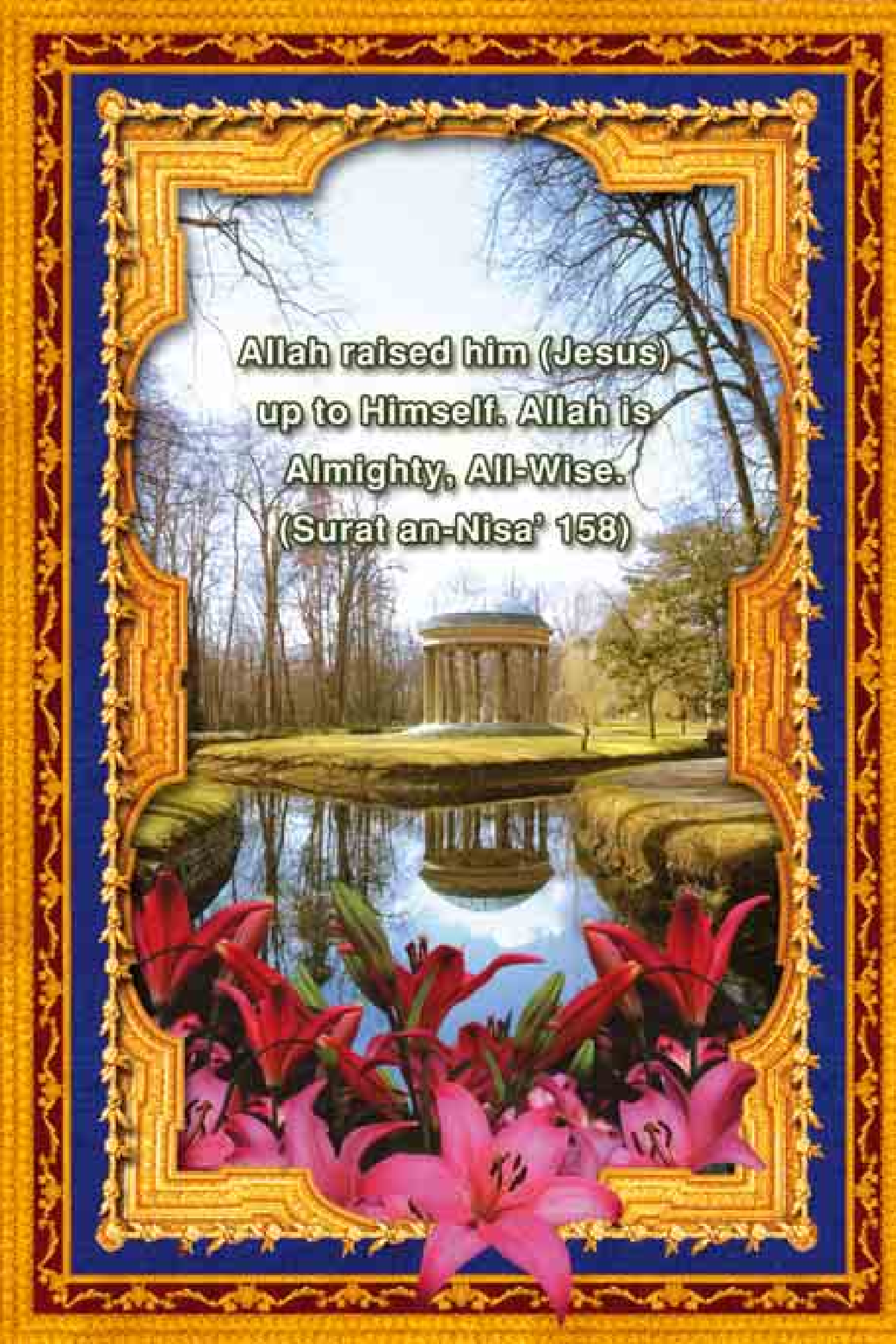
Contrary to what is written in the Bible, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was neither crucified nor the sufferer of a Roman and Jewish conspiracy. Our Lord foiled their traps by sending a look-alike to be crucified in his place so that He could raise the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) up to His Presence.

The Biblical and Qur'anic accounts of what happened to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) are quite different. However, there are some similarities, such as the belief that he was raised to Allah's Presence and that he will return before the Last Day to establish the true religion. The Qur'an and our Prophet's hadiths confirm this. We present the relevant evidence below.

"... I will place the people who follow you above those who are unbelievers until the Day of Resurrection..."

The first verse indicating the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return is given below:

When Allah said: "Jesus, I will take you back and raise you up to Me, and purify you of those who are


Allah raised him (Jesus)
up to Himself. Allah is
Almighty, All-Wise.
(Surat an-Nisa' 158)

unbelievers. And I will place the people who follow you above those who are unbelievers until the Day of Resurrection. Then you will all return to Me, and I will judge between you regarding the things about which you differed. (Surah Al 'Imran, 55)

Allah mentions that a group of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) true followers will dominate the unbelievers until the Day of Resurrection. the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) did not have many followers during his tenure on Earth and, with his ascension; the religion that he had brought degenerated rapidly. Over the next two centuries, those who believed in the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) were oppressed because they had no political power. Therefore, we cannot say that the early Christians dominated the unbelievers in the sense indicated by the verse given above.

At present, Christianity is so far removed from its original state that it no longer resembles the religion taught by the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Christians have adopted the mistaken belief that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is Allah's son (surely Allah is beyond all that which they falsely ascribe to Him) and incorporated the trinity (viz., the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) into their religion centuries ago. Given this, we cannot acknowledge today's Christians as being true followers of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). In the Qur'an, Allah states more than once that those who believe in the trinity are, in fact, unbelievers:



Those who say that the Messiah, son of Mary, is the third of three are unbelievers. There is no God but the One Allah. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 73)

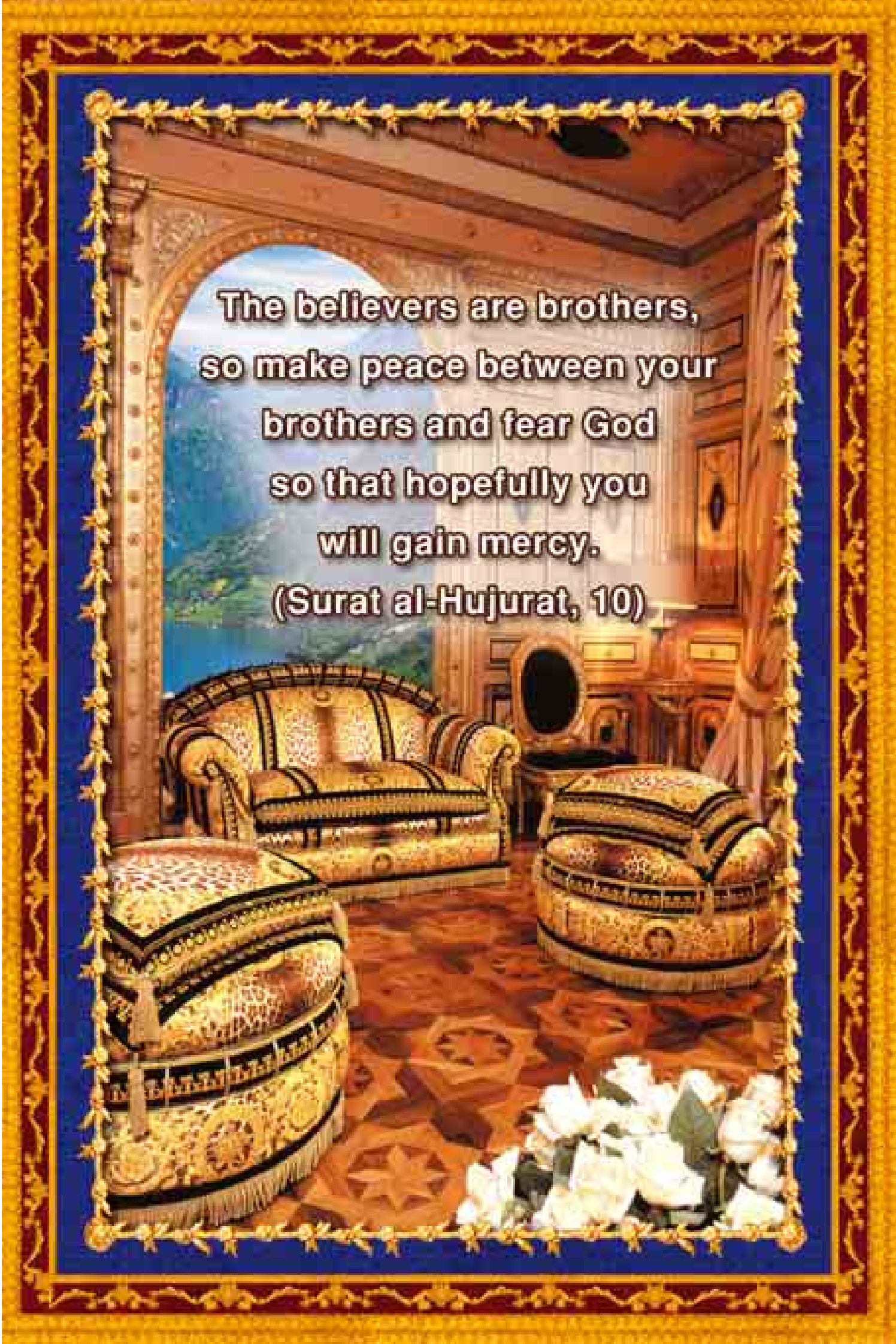
In this case, **"And I will place the people who follow you above those who are unbelievers until the Day of Resurrection"** carries a clear message: There has to be a group of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) followers who will exist until the Last Day. Such a group will emerge after his second coming, and those who follow him at that time will dominate the unbelievers until the Last Day.

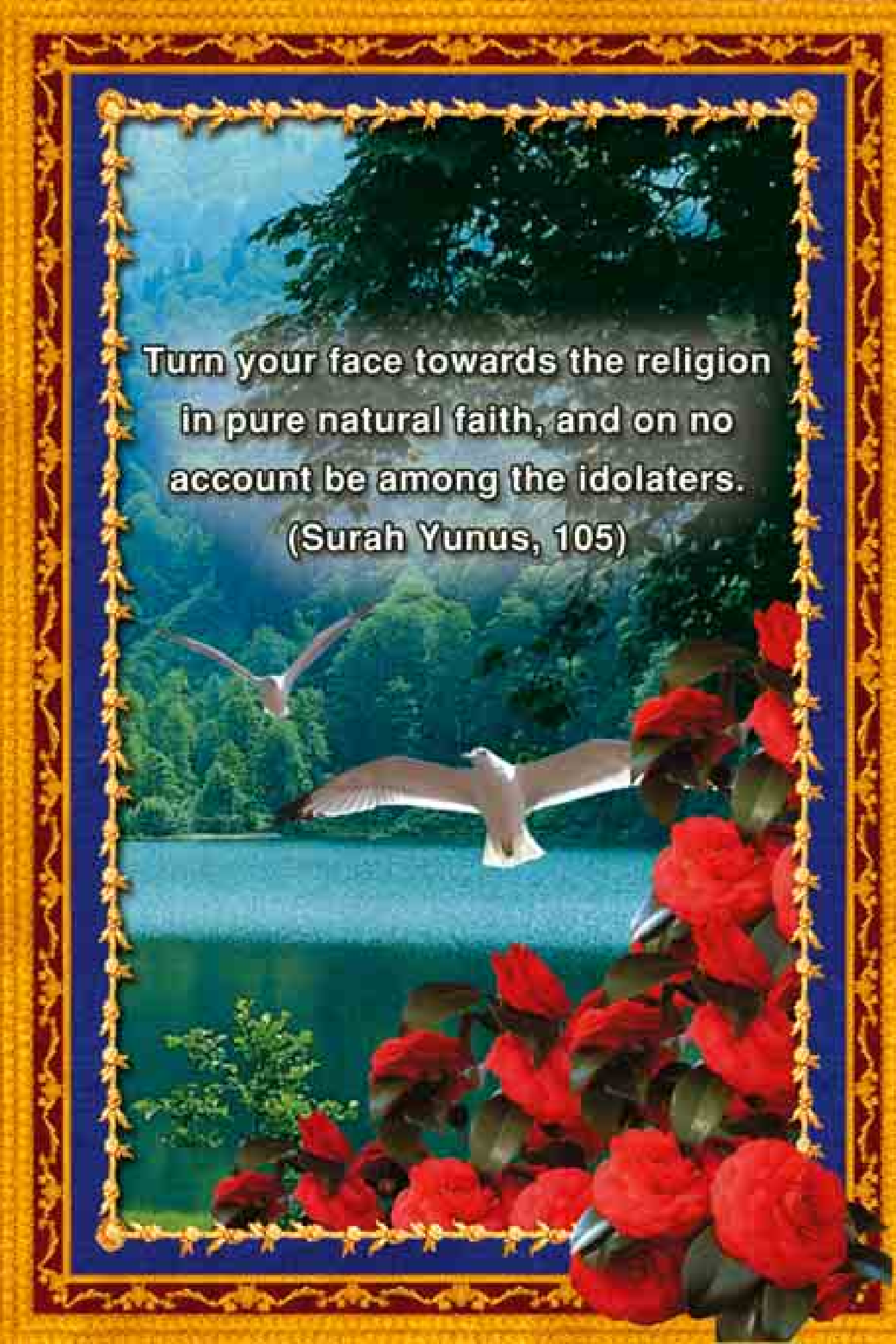
This information is reinforced also in verse 14 of Surat as-Saff:

You who believe! Be helpers of Allah as 'Jesus son of Mary said to the Disciples, 'Who will be my helpers to Allah?'The Disciples said, 'We will be the helpers of Allah.' One faction of the tribe of Israel had faith and the other were unbelievers. So We supported those who had faith against their enemy and they became victorious. (Surat as-Saff, 14)

From the verse above we understand that during the period when the Prophet Jesus **(pbuh)** lived, some people believed while others did not. The command related at the last part of the verse, **"So We supported those who had faith against their enemy and they became victorious"** heralds a period during which those believed in the Prophet Jesus **(pbuh)** will prevail.

It is probable that this period is the one, before the Day of Judgment, the Prophet Jesus *(pbuh)* will come for the second time to the Earth. In this period the Prophet Jesus *(pbuh)* will make the moral values of the real deen prevail the Earth and by Allah's Will, believers will prevail unbelievers. With these words it is stated that in the End Times believers will prevail unbelievers.


The believers are brothers,
so make peace between your
brothers and fear God
so that hopefully you
will gain mercy.
(Surat al-Hujurat, 10)


Turn your face towards the religion
in pure natural faith, and on no
account be among the idolaters.
(Surah Yunus, 105)

There is not one of the People of the Book who will not believe in him before he dies..."

In the Qur'an, we read that:

There is not one of the People of the Book who will not believe in him before he dies; and on the Day of Resurrection he [Jesus] will be a witness against them. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 159)

The phrase **"there is not one of the People of the Book who will not believe in him before he dies"** is very interesting. In Arabic, the sentence reads as follows: *Wa-in min ahli al-kitaabi illaa la yu'minanna bihi qabla mawtihi.*

Some scholars believe that the "him/it" in this verse refers to the Qur'an instead of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), and so understand it to mean that the People of the Book will believe in the Qur'an before they die. However, it is beyond dispute that the same word in the preceding two verses refers to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh):

And [on account of] their saying: "We killed the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, Messenger of Allah." They did not kill him and they did not crucify him, but it was made to seem so to them. Those who argue about him are in doubt about it. They have no real knowledge of it, just conjecture. But they certainly did not kill him. (Surat an-Nisa', 157)

Allah raised him [Jesus] up to Himself. Allah is Almighty, All-Wise. (Surat an-Nisa', 158)

The word "him," which is used in the verse straight after the above two, refers to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), and there is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

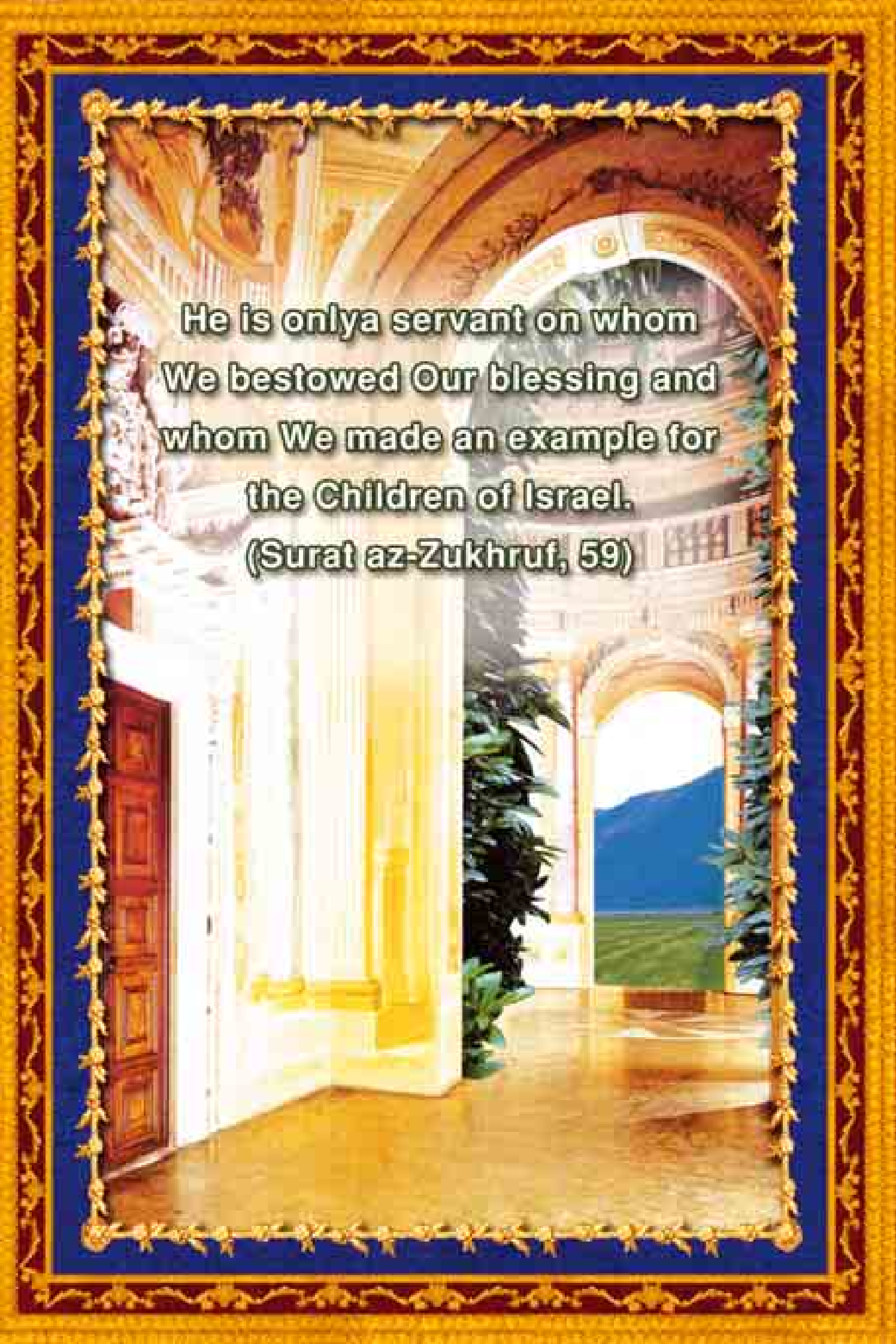
There is not one of the People of the Book who will not be-

lieve in him before he dies; and on the Day of Resurrection he [Jesus] will be a witness against them. (Surat an-Nisa', 159)

The expression **"and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them"** is important. Allah reveals in the Qur'an that on that Day, people's tongues, hands, and feet (Surat an-Nur, 24, Surah Ya Sin, 65), as well as their eyes, ears, and skin (Surah Fussilat, 20-23), will testify against them. No verse indicates that the Qur'an will be the witness during this event. If the first part of the verse is taken to mean "the Qur'an"—even though there is no evidence in the syntax or the succession of verses for this—"him" or "it" in the second part also would refer to the Qur'an. To accept this, however, there should be an explicit verse confirming this view. However, the commentator Ibn Juzayy does not mention the possibility of the Qur'an being the "him" referred to, and Ibn Juzayy transmitted the views of all the major commentators in his work.

When we examine the Qur'an's verses, we see that when the same personal pronoun refers to the Qur'an, there is generally mention of the Qur'an before or after that specific verse as in the cases of Surat an-Naml, 77 and Surat ash-Shu'ara', 192-96. If the Qur'an is not mentioned before, after, or in the verse, saying that the pronoun refers to the Qur'an could be mistaken. The verse clearly speaks of the belief in the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and that he will be a witness for those who believe.

Another point we need to make here has to do with the interpretation of "before he dies." Some believe that this stands for the People of the Book "having faith in the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) before their own death." According to this view, everyone from the People of the Book will definitely believe in the Prophet Jesus


He is onlya servant on whom
We bestowed Our blessing and
whom We made an example for
the Children of Israel.
(Surat az-Zukhruf, 59)

(pbuh) before he or she dies. But at the time of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), some of the Jews (who are members of the People of the Book) not only refused to believe in him, but also plotted his death. Then, believing him to be dead, they continued to deny him. In general, the same circumstances are true for the Jews of our own time, as they do not recognize the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) as a Prophet. As a result, millions of the People of the Book have lived and died without ever believing in the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Therefore, the verse does not speak of the death of this group, but rather of the death of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). In the end, the reality revealed by the Qur'an is this: "Before Jesus dies, all People of the Book will believe in him."

When the verse is regarded in the light of its true meaning, several clear facts emerge. First, it becomes apparent that the verse refers to the future, because it speaks of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) death. As explained earlier, he never died but was raised to Allah's Presence. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return to Earth, where he will live and die like all other people. Second, it says that all People of the Book will believe in him. Obviously, this has not yet happened. And so, given the context, "before he dies" refers to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). The People of the Book will see and recognize him, and then become Muslim followers of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), as will be explained shortly. In turn, he will be their witness on the Last Day.

The majority of the Islamic scholars are also of the same conviction. Abu Huraira and Ibn Abbas, who were among the companions of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), expressed that this verse is an evidence for the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming. Al-Qurtubi comments on the verse as follows:

"When the portents of the Day of Judgment approaches, everyone from the People of the Book who are alive will believe in the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), when he descends to Earth. There will remain only a nation of Islam. (Qurtubi, Al-Jami al-Ahkhami al-Quran, volume VI, p. 10-11)

Tabari interpreted the verse in question as follows:

Every member of the People of the Book will have faith in the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) before he dies, during the time he will come to Earth to make the dajjal ineffective.

(Tabari, Jami' al-Bayan, Volume IV, p. 18)

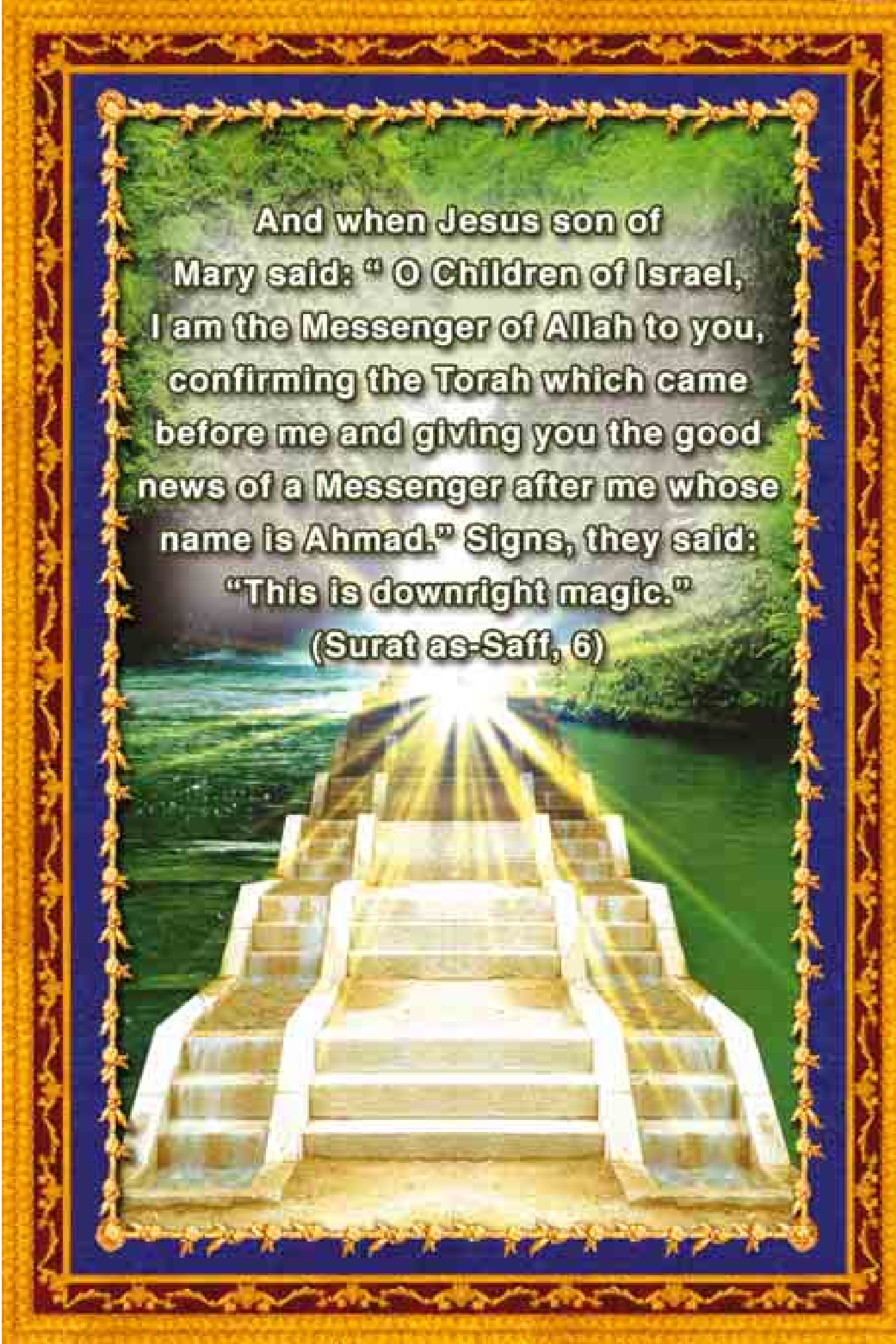
In his explanation Halil Harras stated that Tabari's interpretation is genuine and added that verse 159 of Surat an-Nisa' is an evidence of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming to Earth thus:

"The pronoun 'he' here refers to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). When he comes for the second time, the People of the Book living in this time will have faith in him, confirm him and adolpt Islam as a religion for themselves…When the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will come for the second time, the People of the Book will believe in him…

"He is a Sign of the Hour..."

In Surat az-Zukhruf, we are informed of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return and some other facts, as follows:

When an example is made of the son of Mary [Jesus], your people laugh uproariously. They retort: "Who is better then, our gods or him?" They only say this to you for argument's sake. They are indeed a disputatious people. He is only a servant on whom We bestowed Our blessing and whom We made an example for the tribe of Israel. If We


And when Jesus son of
Mary said: " O Children of Israel,
I am the Messenger of Allah to you,
confirming the Torah which came
before me and giving you the good
news of a Messenger after me whose
name is Ahmad." Signs, they said:
"This is downright magic."
(Surat as-Saff, 6)

willed, We could appoint angels in exchange for you to succeed you on Earth. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 57-60)

The next verse states that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is a sign of the Day of Judgment:

He [Jesus] is a Sign of the Hour. Have no doubt about it. But follow me. This is a straight path. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 61)

Ibn Juzayy says that the first meaning of this verse is that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is a sign or precondition of the Last Hour. We can confidently say that this verse indicates his return at the End Times, because he lived six centuries before the Qur'an's revelation. Therefore we cannot consider his first life as a sign of the Day of Judgment. Allah reveals in the Qur'an that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return toward the end of time or, in other words, during the last period of time before the Day of Judgment. In that context, his return is a sign of the Hour's imminent arrival.

In Arabic, the expression **"He is a Sign of the Hour"** is *Innahu la 'ilmun li as-saa'ati.*

Some say that the pronoun hu (he/it) in this expression refers to the Qur'an. However if this pronoun is used to denote the Qur'an, we would expect other words to be present, whether before, after, or in the verse, that speak of the Qur'an. The word *hu* cannot denote the Qur'an when the subject is altogether different. Furthermore, the preceding verse clearly refers to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) with the word *hu:*

He [Jesus] is only a servant on whom We bestowed Our blessing and whom We made an example for the tribe of Israel. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 59)

Those who say that *hu* refers to the Qur'an rely on the expression **"Have no doubt about it. But follow me,"** which continues

the verse. However, since the preceding verses speak only of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), it is far more realistic to accept that *hu* refers to him, as in the preceding verses. The great scholars of Islam interpret this pronoun as referring to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), an opinion that they base on other Qur'anic verses and hadiths. In his commentary, Elmalili Muhammad Hamdi Yazir writes that:

> *No doubt he [the Prophet Jesus] is a sign of the Hour, one that declares that the Hour will come, that the dead will be resurrected and stand up, because the miracle of Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming and his miracle of resurrecting the dead, together with his revelation that the dead will rise, prove that the Day of Judgment is real. According to the hadiths, his arrival is a sign of the Last Day."*[8]

Sayyid Qutb, a contemporary Islamic scholar, notes that this verse is one of the important evidences that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return to Earth. In Qutb's interpretation this is related thus:

> *There are many hadiths relating that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will come to Earth before the Day of Judgment. Indeed it is also referred to in this verse: "He is a Sign of the Hour." In other words, it is known that the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) coming to Earth and the Day of Judgment are close in time. A second read of the verse is as follows: "Wa-innahu laailmun lilsaati." That is, his coming is a portent of the Day of Judgment. Both of the ways the verse is read delivers the same meaning. The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) coming is knowledge of the unseen that our reliable Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), who always told the truth, referred to and that is indicated in the Qur'an. There can be no words that can be said by another person apart from the information originating from these two sources that will remain unchanged until the Day of Judgment. (Sayyid Qutb, Fi Zilal al-Qur'an [In the Shade of the Qur'an])*

Even in his oldest books Al-Kavsari states that this verse is an evidence for the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming (Al-Kavsari, *Nazrat al-Abira*, p.105). Omer Nasuhi Bilmen explains this in his commentary as follows:

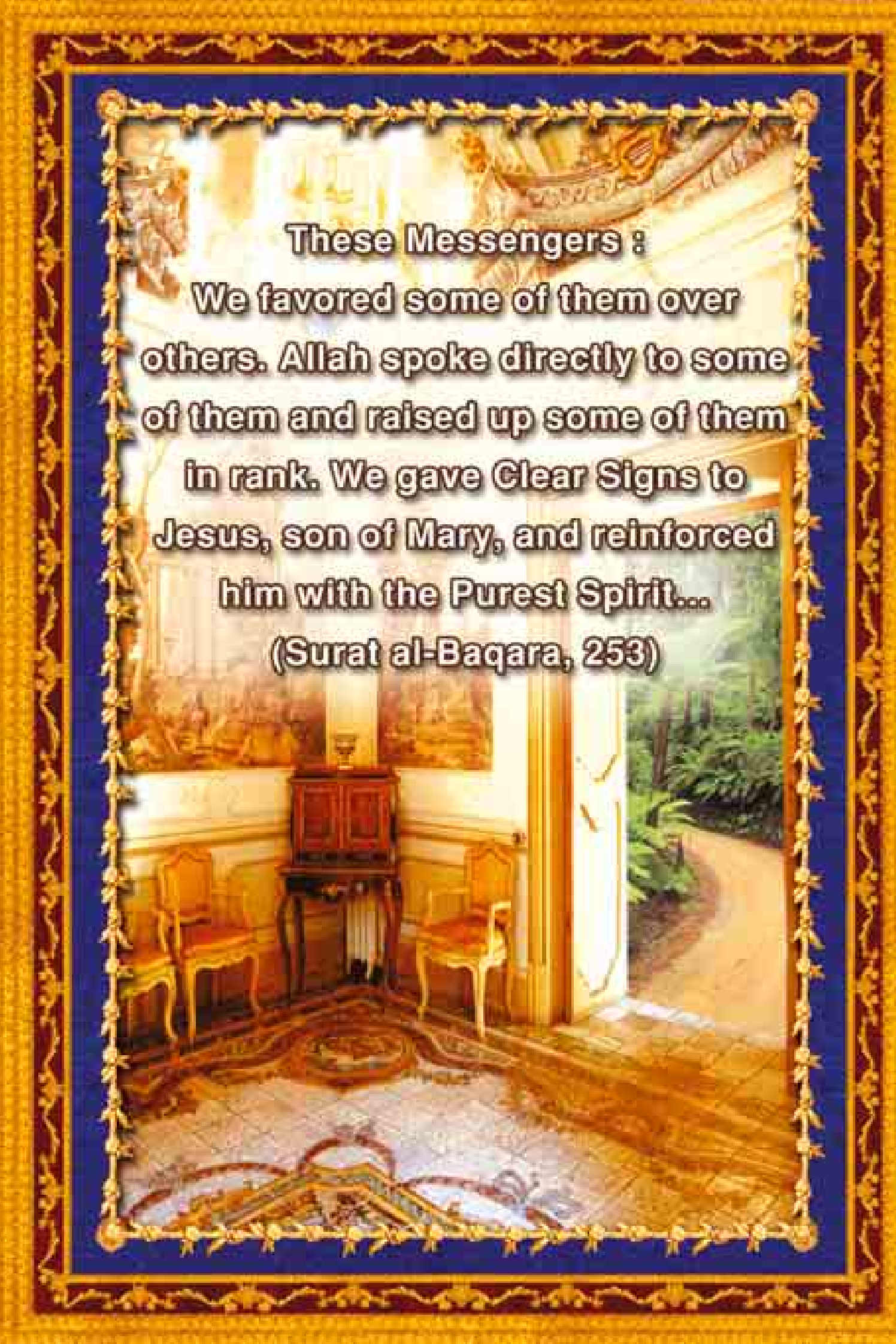
> *Allah states in the verse that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is a portent for the closeness of the Day of Judgment and that there can be no doubt about the Day of Judgment… The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) descent to Earth is considered within the laws of the Day of Judgment… (Omer Nasuhi Bilmen, Interpretation of the Qur'an, Volume VII, 3292)*

It should also be mentioned that in the Qur'an no other prophet is referred to as a sign for the Day of Judgment. Along with the lives of the Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), the Prophets Abraham, Noah, Moses, Solomon, Joseph, David and Jacob (peace be upon them), the lives of many prophets are related in the Qur'an in detail. However, in none of these accounts we can see this expression. By Allah's Will, this refers to a different attribute of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh): that he will be resent to Earth after his ascension to the Sight of Allah. (Allah knows the truth).

"He will teach him the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel."

Other verses indicating the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming are as follows:

> **When the angels said: "Mary, your Lord gives you good news of a Word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, of high esteem in this world and the**


These Messengers :
We favored some of them over
others. Allah spoke directly to some
of them and raised up some of them
in rank. We gave Clear Signs to
Jesus, son of Mary, and reinforced
him with the Purest Spirit...
(Surat al-Baqara, 253)

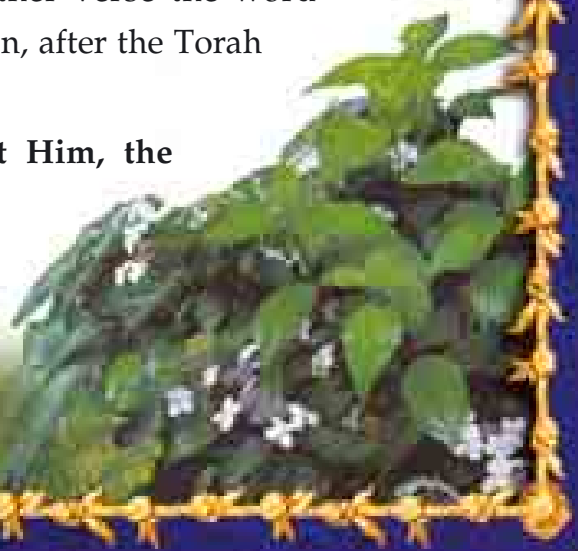
Hereafter, and one of those brought near [to Allah]. He will speak to people in the cradle, and also when fully grown, and will be one of the righteous." She asked: "My Lord! How can I have a son when no man has ever touched me?" He said: "It will be so. Allah creates whatever He wills. When He decides on something, He just says to it: 'Be!' and it is. He will teach him the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel." (Surah Al 'Imran, 45-48)

The last verse reveals that Allah will teach the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) the "Book," the Torah, and the Gospel. Obviously, this book in question is very important. The same expression is also used in the verse given below:

Remember when Allah said: "Jesus, son of Mary, remember My blessing to you and to your mother when I reinforced you with the Purest Spirit so that you could speak to people in the cradle and when you were fully grown; and when I taught you the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel." (Surat al-Ma'ida, 110)

When we examine how "Book" is used here, we see that it refers to the Qur'an in both cases. Allah reveals in the verses that after the Torah, the Psalms and the Gospel, the Qur'an is the final Divine book. In another verse the word "Book" is used to denote the Qur'an, after the Torah and the Gospel are mentioned:

Allah, there is no god but Him, the Living, the Self-Sustaining.
He has sent down the



Book to you with truth, confirming what was there before it. And He sent down the Torah and the Gospel previously. (Surah Al 'Imran, 2-3)

The Qur'an is called the "Book" also in other verses:

When a Book comes to them from Allah, confirming what is with them—even though before that they were praying for victory over the unbelievers—yet when what they recognize comes to them, they reject it. Allah's curse is on the unbelievers. (Surat al-Baqara, 89)

For this We sent a Messenger to you from among you to recite Our Signs to you, to purify you, to teach you the Book and Wisdom, and to teach you things you did not know before. (Surat al-Baqara, 151)

In this case, the Qur'an is the third book that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will be taught. But this will be possible only when he returns to Earth, for he lived 600 years before the Qur'an's revelation. As we will see in great detail in the following chapters, the hadiths reveal that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will rule with the Qur'an, not the Gospel, on his second coming. This corresponds with the verse's meaning.

"The likeness of Jesus (pbuh) in Allah's Sight is the same as Adam."

The verse above (Surah Al 'Imran, 59) could also indicate the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return. Muslim scholars who have written Qur'anic commentaries point out that this verse indicates the fact that both Prophets did not have a father, for Allah created both of them with the command "Be!" However, the verse could also have another meaning: Just as Adam was sent down to Earth from



Allah's Presence, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will be sent down to Earth from Allah's Presence during the End Times.

As we have seen, the verses regarding the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return are very clear. As the Qur'an does not use such expressions for any other Prophet, its meaning is fairly obvious.

"...The day I was born, the day I die, and the day I am raised up again alive..."

Surah Maryam also mentions the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) death in the following verse:

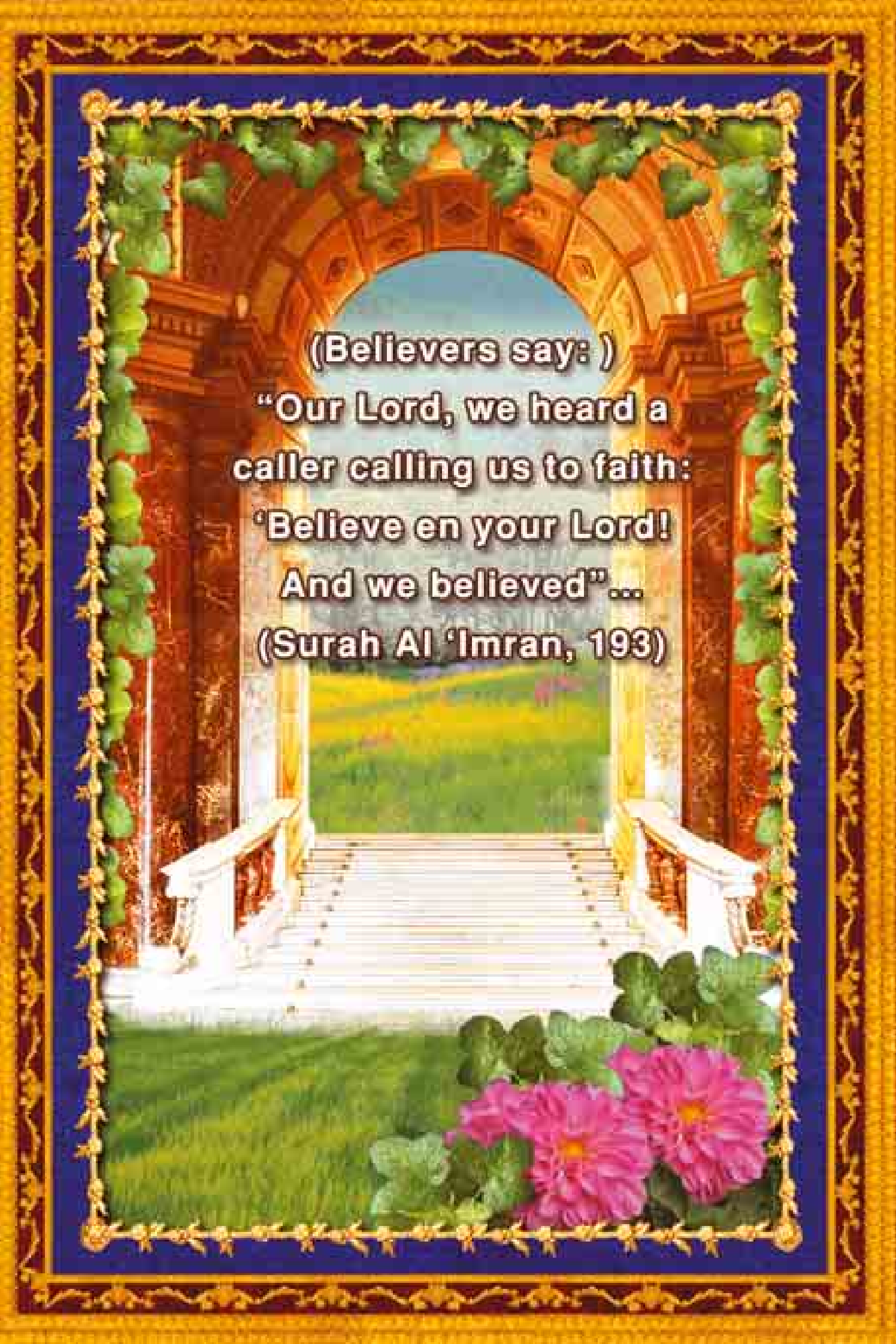
> **[Jesus said,] "Peace be upon me the day I was born, the day I die, and the day I am raised up again alive." (Surah Maryam, 33)**

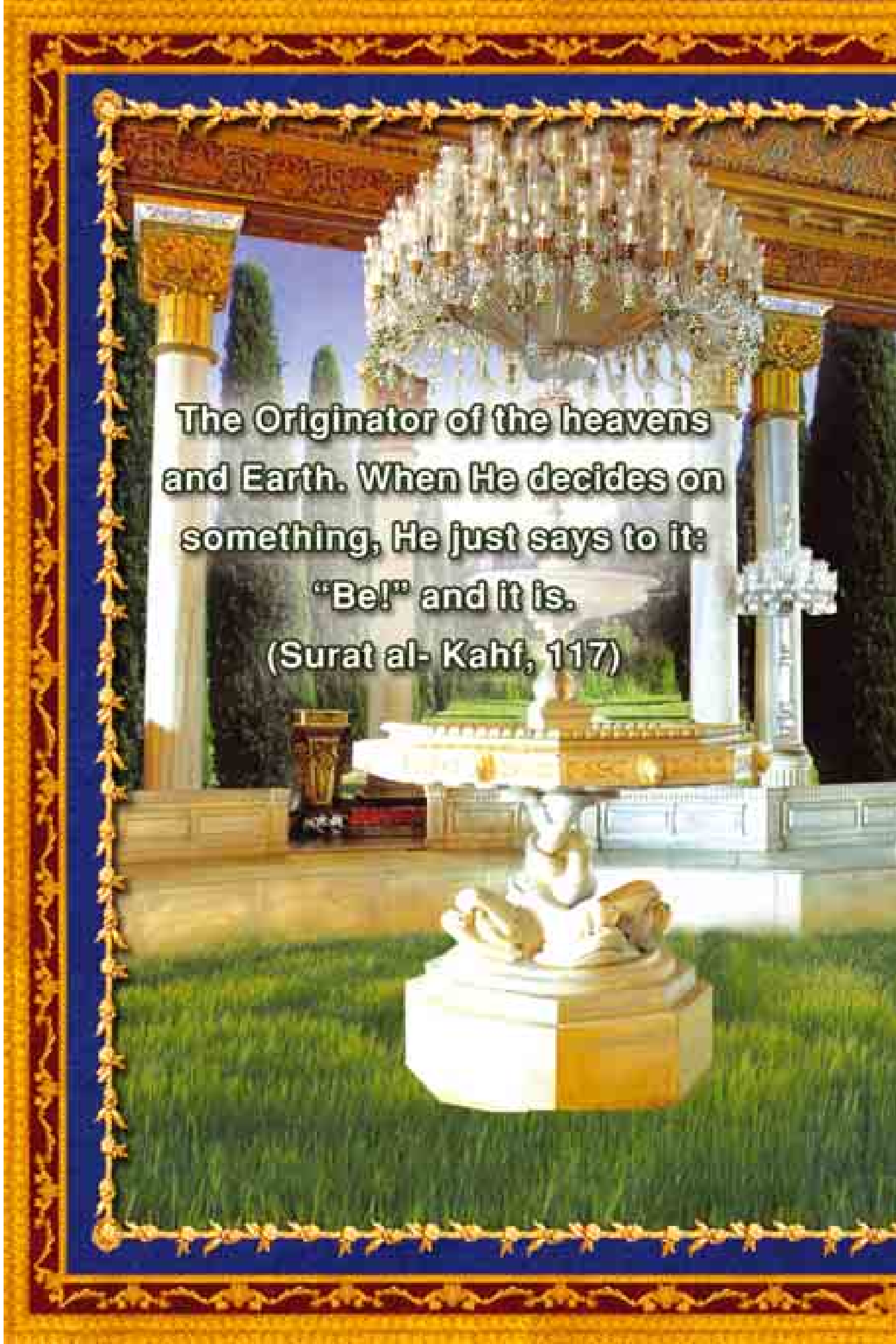
When this verse is considered in conjunction with Surah Al 'Imran 55, an important reality emerges: While Surah Al 'Imran states that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was raised up to Allah's Presence and does not mention that he died or was killed, Surah Maryam speaks of the day on which he will die. This second death can only be possible after he returns and lives on Earth for a period of time.

"... You could speak to people in the cradle and when you were fully grown..."

Another piece of evidence for the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return is the word kahlaan, used Surat al-Ma'ida 110 and Surah Al 'Imran 46. Allah reveals in the Qur'an:

Remember when Allah said: "Jesus, son of Mary, remem-


(Believers say:)
"Our Lord, we heard a
caller calling us to faith:
'Believe en your Lord!
And we believed"...
(Surah Al 'Imran, 193)


The Originator of the heavens
and Earth. When He decides on
something, He just says to it:
"Be!" and it is.
(Surat al- Kahf, 117)

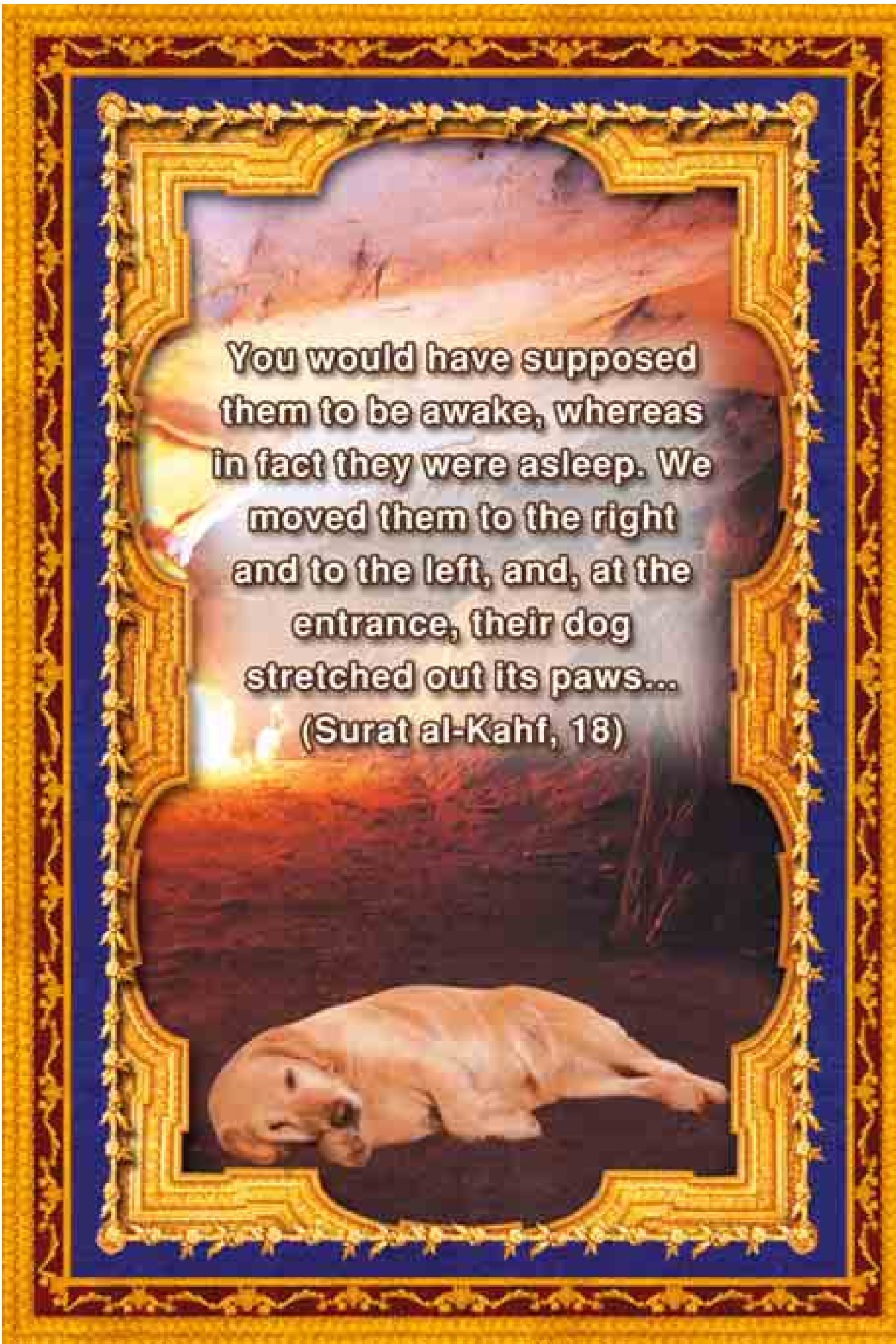


ber My blessing to you and to your mother when I reinforced you with the Purest Spirit so that you could speak to people in the cradle and when you were fully grown (*kahlaan*)..." (Surat al-Ma'ida, 110)

He will speak to people in the cradle, and also when fully grown (*kahlaan*), and will be one of the righteous. (Surah Al 'Imran, 46)

Kahlaan, which is used only in these two verses, only in reference to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), and to express the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) adulthood means "someone between the age of 30 and 50, someone who is no longer young, someone who has reached the perfect age." Islamic scholars agree that it denotes the age of 35 or above. They base their views on a hadith reported by Ibn 'Abbas that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was raised up to Allah's Presence in his early 30s, and that he will live for 40 years when he comes again. Therefore, they suggest that this verse is evidence for the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return, since his old age will occur following his second coming.[9]

Close study of the relevant verses easily shows how right Islamic scholars are on this question. For example, this expression is used only with regard to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Although all of the Prophets spoke with their people, invited them to religion, and communicated their message at a mature age, the Qur'an does not use such expressions when talking about them. Rather, they are used only to voice a miraculous situation, because the expressions "in the cradle" and "when fully grown," when used one after the other, refer to two miraculous events.


You would have supposed
them to be awake, whereas
in fact they were asleep. We
moved them to the right
and to the left, and, at the
entrance, their dog
stretched out its paws...
(Surat al-Kahf, 18)

In *The Commentary of Tabari*, Imam at-Tabari gives the following explanation of these verses:

> *These statements [Surat al-Ma'ida 110] indicate that in order to complete his lifespan and speak to people when fully grown, The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will come down from Heaven. That is because he was raised to Heaven when still young. In this verse [Surah Al 'Imran 46], there is evidence that Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is living, and the Ahl al-Sunnah share that view. That is because in this verse it is stated that he will speak to people when fully grown. He will be able to grow fully only when he returns to Earth from Heaven.*[10]

The meanings of *kahlaan*, as well as the other information provided by the Qur'an, indicate the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming in the End Times and that he will guide people to the true religion of Islam. No doubt, this is good news and a grace and gift of Allah for those who believe. The believers are responsible for supporting and defending him in the most appropriate way, and for living wholeheartedly the Qur'anic morality to which he calls them.

Everyone Will Recognize the Prophet Jesus (pbuh)

Another subject that has received a great deal of attention is how the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will be recognized or by what features we will know him. As a person who was created superior in terms of knowledge, intelligence, physical appearance, and character, he will have the facial expression of a Prophet. His Allah-fearing nature and deepest faith will shine on his face so much so that people will instantly realize that they are looking upon someone quite superior.

Allah revealed that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is **"of high esteem in this world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near"** (Surah Al 'Imran, 45). Like all Prophets, he will be known to those people surrounding him as an embodiment of Allah's Word, as well as his respectability, distinction, and dignity. Those who meet him will recognize him instantaneously, and no doubts will cloud their hearts. And those who rejected his arrival will realize their error.

It will be possible to identify him by a Prophet's attributes, which are described in the Qur'an. Other circumstances also will cause people to recognize him. One of the most important ones will be that he will be solitary: He will have no family or relatives, and no one will have known him from before. This is because all of the people who knew him lived and died 2,000 years ago. His mother Mary, Zachariah, the disciples who spent years with him, the Jewish leadership, and everyone who heard him preach are all dead. Therefore, when he comes again no one will have witnessed his birth, childhood, youth, and adulthood, and no one will know anything about him. There will be no childhood photos of him, and no one will have any memories of him.

No doubt, this situation does away with the nuisance of "false messiahs." When the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) returns, there will be nothing to cast any doubt on his identity. Nobody will find any cause to deny who he is, because the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return just as he was before Allah raised him to His Presence, including his garments, and will have superior qualities that no human being could imitate.

Comparable Events Mentioned in the Qur'an

The Qur'an mentions similar events, such as a person being resurrected after being dead for a long time and sleeping for hundreds of years that are comparable to the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) situation. Some of these are as follows:

The man resurrected after one hundred years

One of these examples is that of a man who had been dead for one hundred years:

> **Or [consider such example as] the one who passed by a town that had fallen into ruin. He asked: "How can Allah restore this to life when it has died?" So Allah caused him to die for a hundred years, and then brought him back to life. Then He asked: "How long have you been here?" He replied: "I have been here a day or part of a day." He said: "Not so! You have been here a hundred years. Look at your food and drink—it has not gone bad—and look at your donkey, so We can make you a Sign for all mankind. Look at the bones—how We raise them up and clothe them in flesh." When it had become clear to him, he said: "Now I know that Allah has power over all things." (Surat al-Baqara, 259)**

As we mentioned earlier, Allah reveals in the Qur'an that the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) soul was "taken back." In the above verse, on the other hand, true death *(mawt)* is revealed. Therefore, Allah reveals in the Qur'an that Allah willed the resurrection of someone who had truly died.



Awakening the "Companions of the Cave" after many years

Another example is the narrative of the "Companions of the Cave." Allah relates the story of a group of young people who sought refuge in the cave from their anti-religious ruler's despotism. Their awakening is described in the following terms:

> **When the young men took refuge in the cave and said: "Our Lord, give us mercy directly from You and open the way for us to right guidance in our situation." So We sealed their ears with sleep in the cave for a number of years. ... You would have supposed them to be awake, whereas in fact they were asleep. We moved them to the right and to the left, and at the entrance, their dog stretched out its paws. If you had looked down and seen them, you would have turned from them and run and have been filled with terror at the sight of them. That was the situation when we woke them up so they could question one another. One of them asked: "How long have you been here?" They replied: "We have been here for a day or part of a day." They said: "Your Lord knows best how long have you been here. Send one of your number into the city with**

this silver you have, so he can see which food is purest and bring you some of it to eat. But he should go about with caution, so that no one is aware of you." (Surat al-Kahf, 10-11, 18-19)

Allah does not reveal in the Qur'an how long they remained in the cave. Instead, the duration of this period is implied by the words "for a number of years." People guessed that they stayed there for 309 years, for:

They stayed in their cave for three hundred years and added nine. Say: "Allah knows best how long they stayed. The Unseen of the heavens and Earth belongs to Him. How perfectly He sees, how well He hears! They have no protector apart from Him. Nor does He share His rule with anyone." (Surat al-Kahf, 25-26)

What this narrative reveals is that Allah took some people back from this life, either by making them sleep or by taking their lives, and then restored them to life, just as people wake up from sleep. the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is one such person. When the appointed time comes, he will live on Earth once again, fulfill the honorable responsibility given to him by Allah, and then die onEarth in the normal manner, for

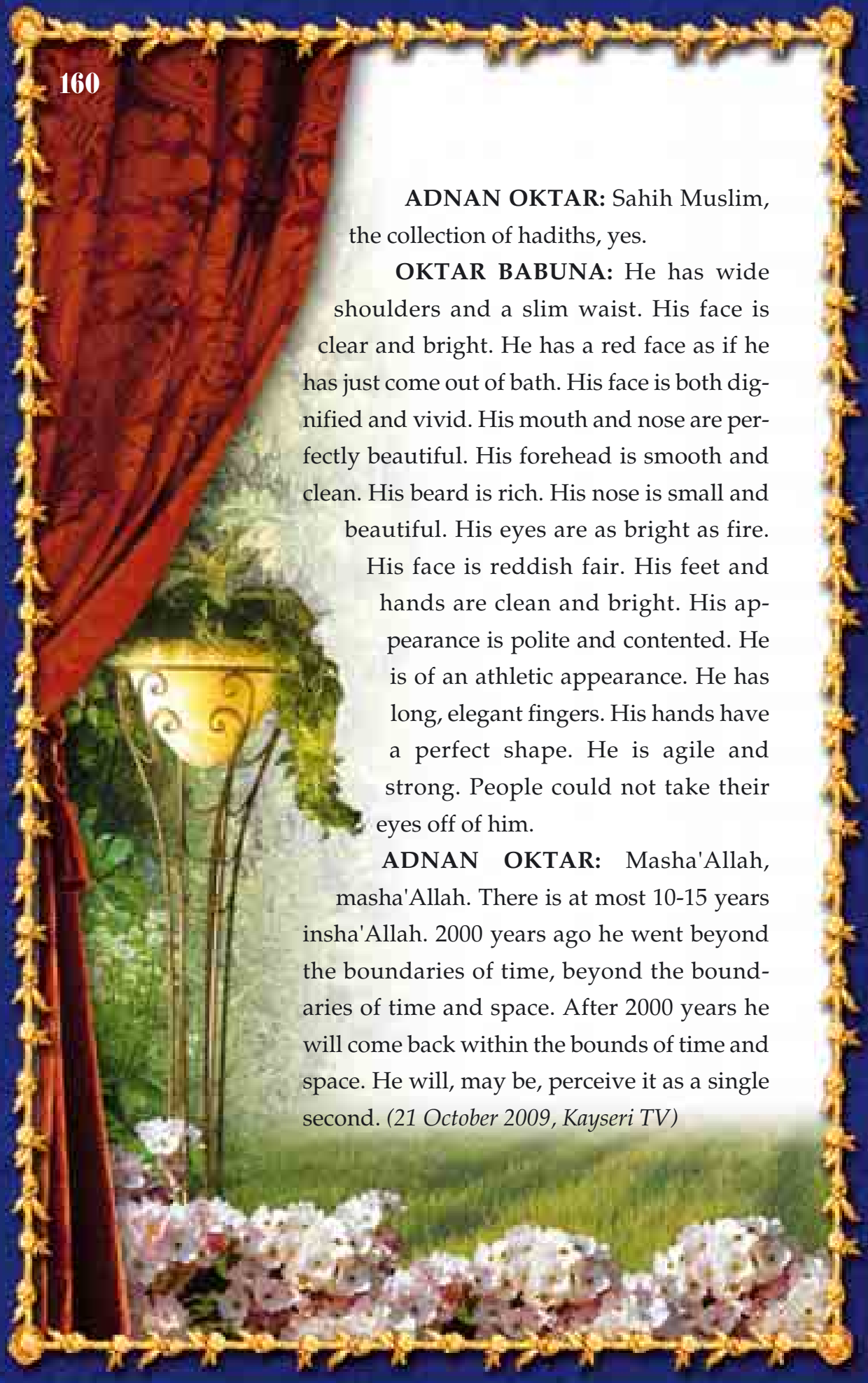
He said: "On it you will live and on it you will die, and from it you will be brought forth." (Surat al-A'raf, 25)

THE PROPHET JESUS' (PBUH) APPEARANCE IN THE HADITHS

ADNAN OKTAR: Oktar, you can tell the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) outer appearance. You can read it slowly and in an understandable manner so that when Messiah (pbuh) comes our brothers can say, "He is just like how he is depicted" insha'Allah. You can tell these explanations about our lovely Prophet which are compiled by the hadiths.

OKTAR BABUNA: Insha'Allah. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) has grey eyes insha'Allah. He has pungent looks according to a hadith related from Ahmad ibn Hanbal's sources insha'Allah. There are light freckles on his face. His hair and beard are golden-chestnut colour. As Tabarani relates in his Kabir, his hair has a wet look, as if he has washed his hair and is dripping. His hair is well-groomed with some waves. Neither very straight nor curly. Though covering his earlobes, his hair is not longer than his shoulders. On the back of the head it touches the middle of the two shoulder bones. Up until the ears his hair is straight and the rest is wavy. Close to long, his hair is of middle length. This is related by Muslim.





ADNAN OKTAR: Sahih Muslim, the collection of hadiths, yes.

OKTAR BABUNA: He has wide shoulders and a slim waist. His face is clear and bright. He has a red face as if he has just come out of bath. His face is both dignified and vivid. His mouth and nose are perfectly beautiful. His forehead is smooth and clean. His beard is rich. His nose is small and beautiful. His eyes are as bright as fire. His face is reddish fair. His feet and hands are clean and bright. His appearance is polite and contented. He is of an athletic appearance. He has long, elegant fingers. His hands have a perfect shape. He is agile and strong. People could not take their eyes off of him.

ADNAN OKTAR: Masha'Allah, masha'Allah. There is at most 10-15 years insha'Allah. 2000 years ago he went beyond the boundaries of time, beyond the boundaries of time and space. After 2000 years he will come back within the bounds of time and space. He will, may be, perceive it as a single second. *(21 October 2009, Kayseri TV)*



THE PROPHET JESUS' (PBUH) SECOND COMING IN THE HADITH LITERATURE

The Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) has revealed many important matters about the Prophet Jesus'(pbuh) return, as well as some of the things that will happen before and after this event, in his hadiths. All of this information is from the "Unseen," and was given to him by Allah, as related in the following verse:

> **He [Allah] is the Knower of the Unseen, and does not divulge His Unseen to anyone—except a Messenger with whom He is well pleased, and then He posts sentinels before him and behind him. (Surat al-Jinn, 26-27)**

Our Lord also reveals that He sent knowledge to the Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) in his dreams:

> **Allah has confirmed His Messenger's vision with truth: "You will enter the Sacred Mosque [Masjid al-Haram] in safety, Allah willing, shaving your heads and cutting your hair without any fear." He knew what you did not know and ordained, in place of this, an imminent victory. (Surat al-Fath, 27)**

Allah gives such knowledge to our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) in order to help and support both him as well as all of the faithful believers who were with him.

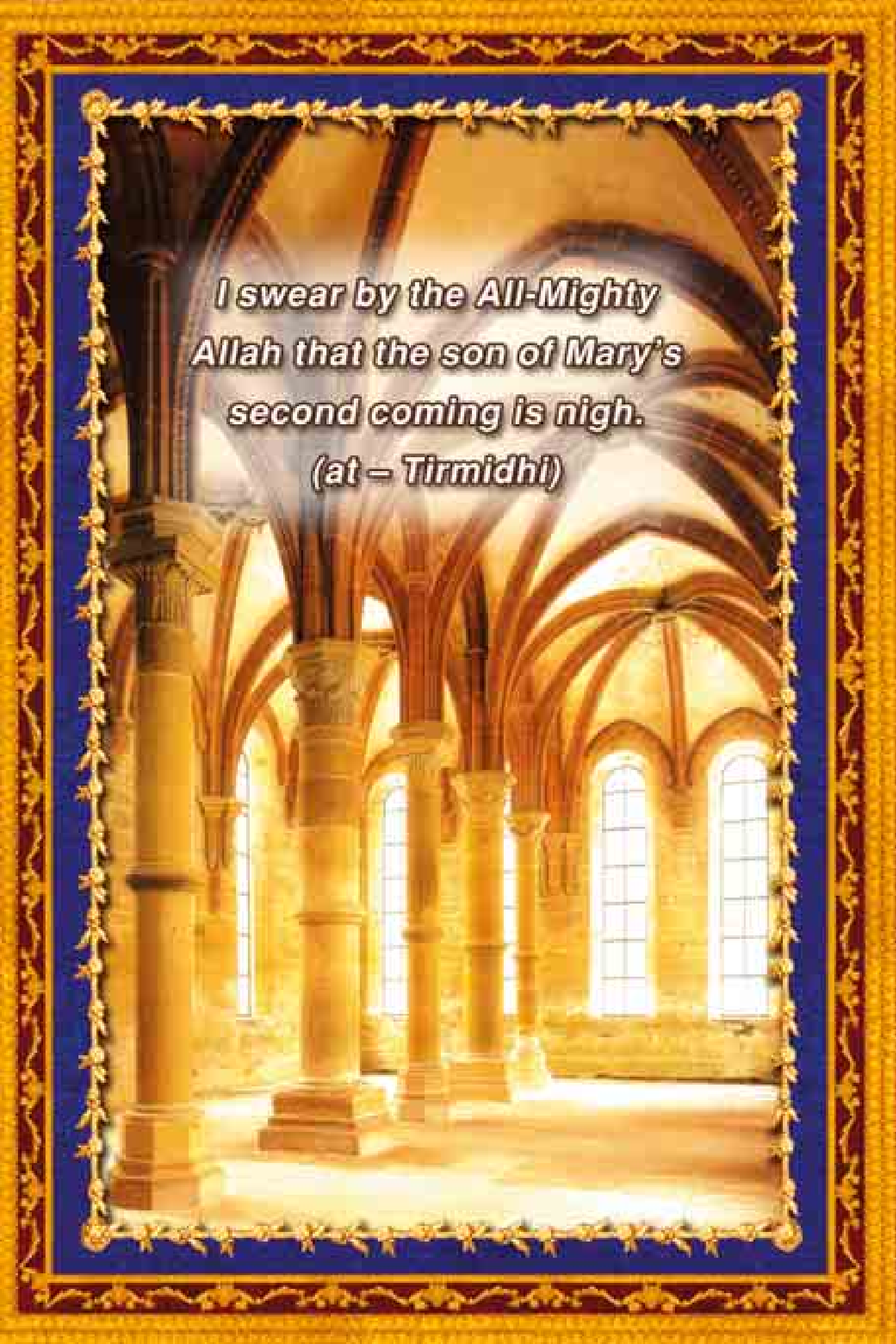
Some of this revealed information deals with the signs of the End Times. The most significant of these revelations concerns the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming. The hadiths about the End Times can be found in sahih (accredited) hadith collections such as Imam Nawawi's *Riyadh as-Salihin,* Imam Malik's *Al-Muwatta'*, Ibn Khuzayma's *Sahih*, Ibn Hibban's *Sahih*, Ahmad ibn Hanbal's *Musnad*, and Abu Dawud al-Tayalisi's Musnad. From these sources, we learn that our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) made many important revelations about the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), all of which are considered *tawatur* (reliable).

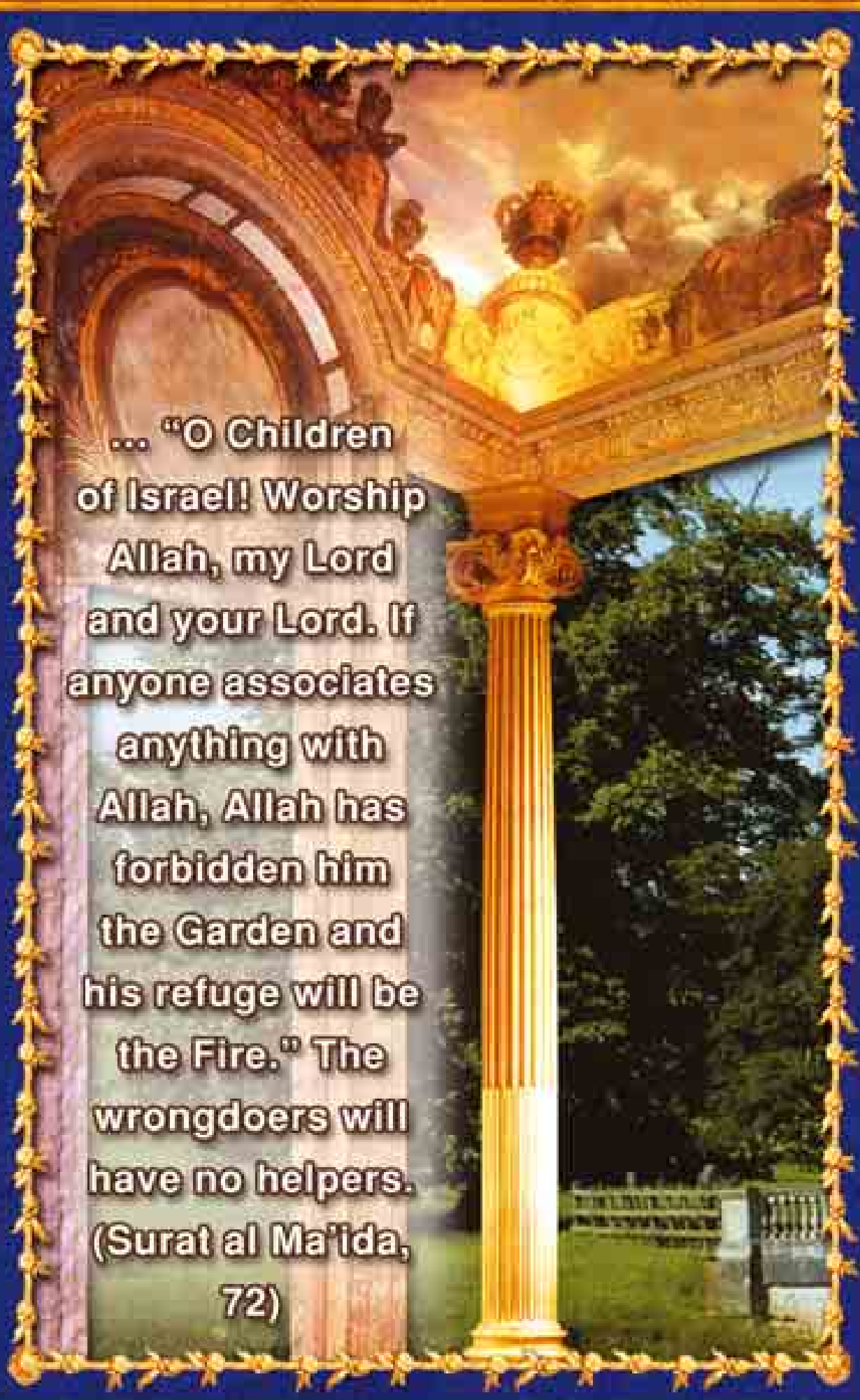
As is related in the hadith the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will come again to Earth within the century in which we live, he will abide by the religion of Islam, purify Christianity of all its superstitions and hearsay, be instrumental in the conversion of the People of the Book into Islam, eradicate the system of dajjal and make the moral values of Islam rule the world together with Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh).

The Hadiths on the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) Are "Tawatur"

The hadiths relating the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming are reliable *(tawatur)*. Research shows that scholars share this view. *Tawatur* is defined as "a tradition which has been handed down by a number of different channels of transmitters or authorities, hence supposedly ruling out the possibility of its having been forged."[11]

In his *Al-Tasrih fi ma Tawatara fi Nuzul al-Masih,* the great hadith scholar Muhammad Anwar Shah Kashmiri writes that the hadiths about the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming are all reliable, and quotes 75 hadiths and 25 works by companions of our Prophet and their disciples *(tabi'un)*.


I swear by the All-Mighty
Allah that the son of Mary's
second coming is nigh.
(at – Tirmidhi)


... "O Children
of Israel! Worship
Allah, my Lord
and your Lord. If
anyone associates
anything with
Allah, Allah has
forbidden him
the Garden and
his refuge will be
the Fire." The
wrongdoers will
have no helpers.
(Surat al Ma'ida,
72)

In the Sunni school of Islam, Imam Abu Hanifah is the greatest collector of hadiths on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming. In the final part of his *Al-Fiqh al-Akbar*, he states that:

> *The emergence of the dajjal and of Gog and Magog is a reality; the rising of the sun in the West is a reality; the descent of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), upon whom be peace, from the heavens is a reality; and all the other signs of the Day of Resurrection, as contained in authentic traditions, are also established realities.*[12]

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming is one of the ten great signs of the Last Day, and many Islamic scholars have dealt with the subject in great detail. When all of these views are considered together, it becomes apparent that there is a consensus on this event. That the hadiths are reliable is explained, as follows:

> *Muhammad al-Shawkani said that he had collected 29 hadiths and, when he had recorded them all, he said: "Our hadiths have reached the level of tawatur (reliable), as you can see. With this, we reach the conclusion that the hadiths on the anticipated Mahdi, the dajjal, and the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming are mutawatir (genuine).*[13]

At-Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud, al-Bazzaz, Ibn Majah, al-Hakim, al-Tabarani, and al-Musuli recorded many hadiths narrated by the Companions, such as 'Ali, Ibn 'Abbas, Ibn 'Umar, Talha, Abu Hurayra, Anas, Abu Sa'id al-Khudri, Umm Habiba, Umm Salama, 'Ali al-Hilali, and 'Abd Allah ibn al-Harith ibn Jaz, upon whose narrations they based their collection on.[14] For instance, Ibn Hajr Al-Haythami in the book *al-Sawa'iq al-Muhriqa*, al-Shablanji in his book Nur al-Absar, Ibn Sabbagh in his book Al-Fusul al-Muhimma, Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Sabban in his book *Is'af ar-Raghibin fi Sirat al-Mustafa wa Fada'il Ahl Baytihi at-Tahirin*, and

Muhammad Amin Suwaidi in his book Saba'ik az-Zahab, wrote that the hadiths about the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming are reliable.[15]

These hadiths are recorded by the Ahl as-Sunnah scholars and hadith experts in their own works. For instance, Abu Dawud, Ahmad, at-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah, al-Hakim, an-Nasa'i, al-Tabarani, al-Rawajini, Abu Nu'aym al-Isfahani, ad-Daylami, al-Baihaqi, as-Salabi, Hamawaini, Manawi, Ibn al-Jawzi, Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Sabban, al-Mawardi, al-Khanji al-Shafi, as-Samani, al-Khwarizmi, ash-Sharani, ad-Daraqutni, Ibn Sabbagh al-Maliki, Muhibbuddin Tabari, Ibn Hajr al-Haythami, Shaikh Mansur 'Ali Nasif, Muhammad ibn Talha, Jalaluddin as-Suyuti, al-Qurtubi, al-Baghawi and many more deal with the subject in their books.

Ibn Kathir, while explaining that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is a sign of the End Times as pointed out in Surat az-Zukhruf 61, says that the hadiths about Jesus' (pbuh) second coming prior to the Day of Judgment have reached the status of *mutawatir*. 'Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghudda reveals that the hadiths about Jesus returning to earth and killing (making the dajjal ineffective) have reached the degree of being *mutawatir*.[16] Al-Kattani shares these views in his *Nazm al-Mutanathir min al-Hadith al-Mutawatir*.[17]

Such books show the great number of hadiths that exist on this subject. Furthermore, the hadiths that reveal the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming in the End Times as a sign of the Last Day are found in the main hadith source books, such as those by al-Bukhari and Muslim. Some of these are as follows:

> *By Him in Whose Hand is my life, the son of Mary (Jesus) will certainly invoke the name of Allah for Hajj or for Umrah, or for both, in the valley of Rawha. (Sahih Muslim)*

"It (the Day of Judgment) will not come until you see ten signs," and (in this connection) he mentioned the smoke, the dajjal, the Beast, the rising of the Sun from the west, the descent of Jesus son of Mary… (Sahih Muslim)

By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, son of Mary (Jesus) will shortly descend amongst you people as a just ruler. (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Jesus son of Mary would then descend and their (Muslims') commander will invite him to come and lead them in prayer, but he would say: No, some amongst you are commanders over some (amongst you). This is the honor from Allah for this Ummah (nation). (Sahih Muslim)

How will you be when the some of Mary (i.e. Jesus) descends amongst you and he will judge people by the Law of the Qur'an? (Sahih al-Bukhari)

(For further information about the signs of the Last Day, please see Harun Yahya, *Signs of the Last Day*, Istanbul: Global Publishing, 2003)



Our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) Announced the Good News of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Return

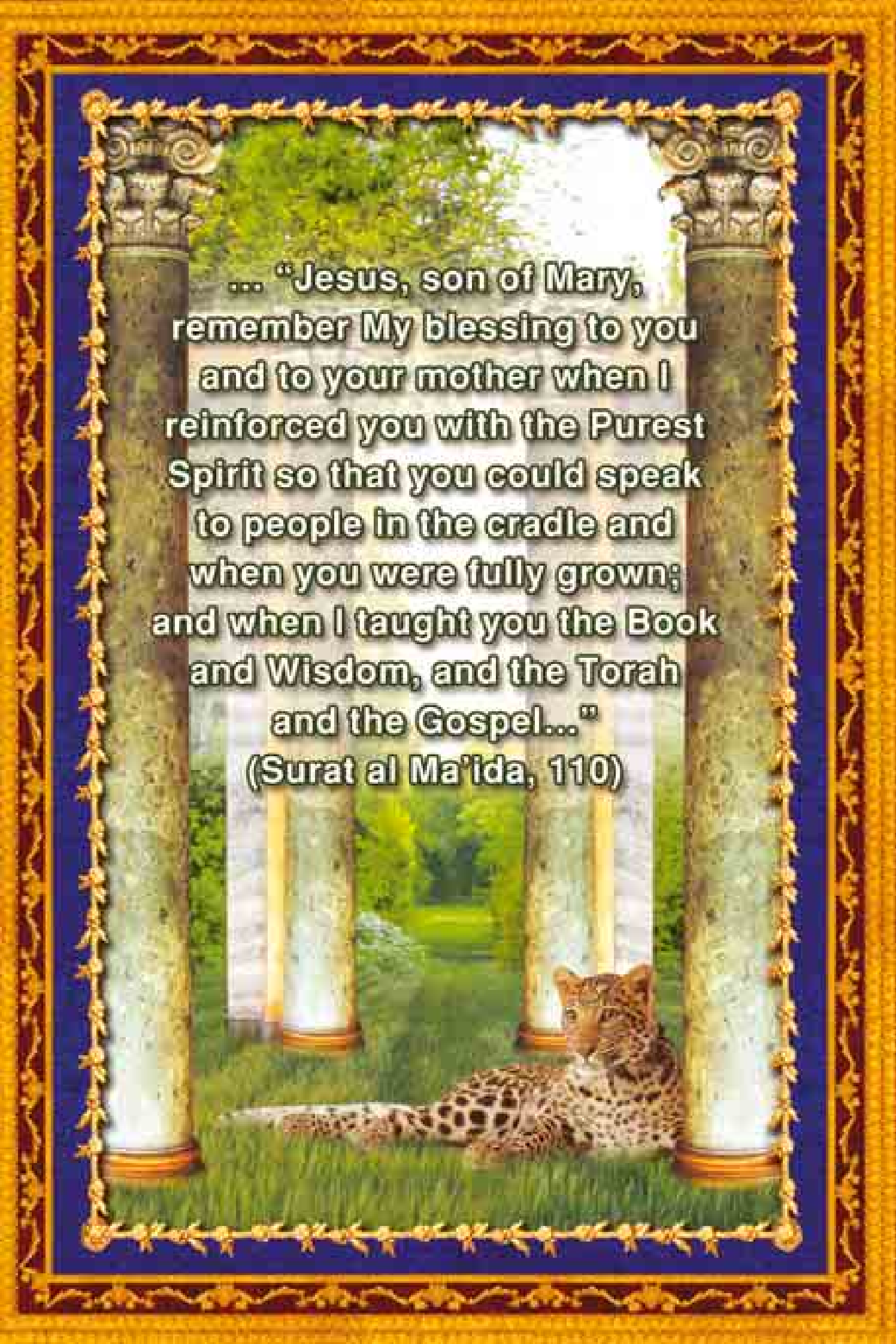
By the One in Whose hand is my self, definitely the son of Mary will soon descend among you as a just judge. He will break the cross [annul the worship of the cross], kill the pig [he will eliminate the superstitious beliefs included in the Christianity during latter periods], and abolish the jizya (a head tax on free non-Muslims living under Muslim rule). (Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)

No Prophet shall come during the period between me and the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). And the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) shall descend. Recognize him when you see him. He is a man of medium height and of a ruddy, fair complexion. He will be dressed in two pieces of a yellow garment. The hair on his head will appear as if water is trickling out of it, although his hair would not be wet. He will struggle for the cause of Islam… And the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will make the dajjal ineffective. He will live on this Earth for a period of forty years, and at the end of this period he will pass away. The Muslims will offer the funeral prayers of Jesus. (Abu Dawud)

Certainly, the time of prayer will come and then Jesus (pbuh), son of Mary, descend and will lead them in prayer. When the enemy of Allah see him, he will (disappear) just as salt dissolves in water. (Sahih Muslim)

The world will be placed beneath his feet … His eyes will see the distance too … He will see the unbelievers' castles and villages… (Al-Barzanji, Al-Isha'ah li-ashrat al-sa'ah, p. 244)

When their [believers'] Imam would come forward to lead them in


... "Jesus, son of Mary,
remember My blessing to you
and to your mother when I
reinforced you with the Purest
Spirit so that you could speak
to people in the cradle and
when you were fully grown;
and when I taught you the Book
and Wisdom, and the Torah
and the Gospel..."
(Surat al Ma'ida, 110)

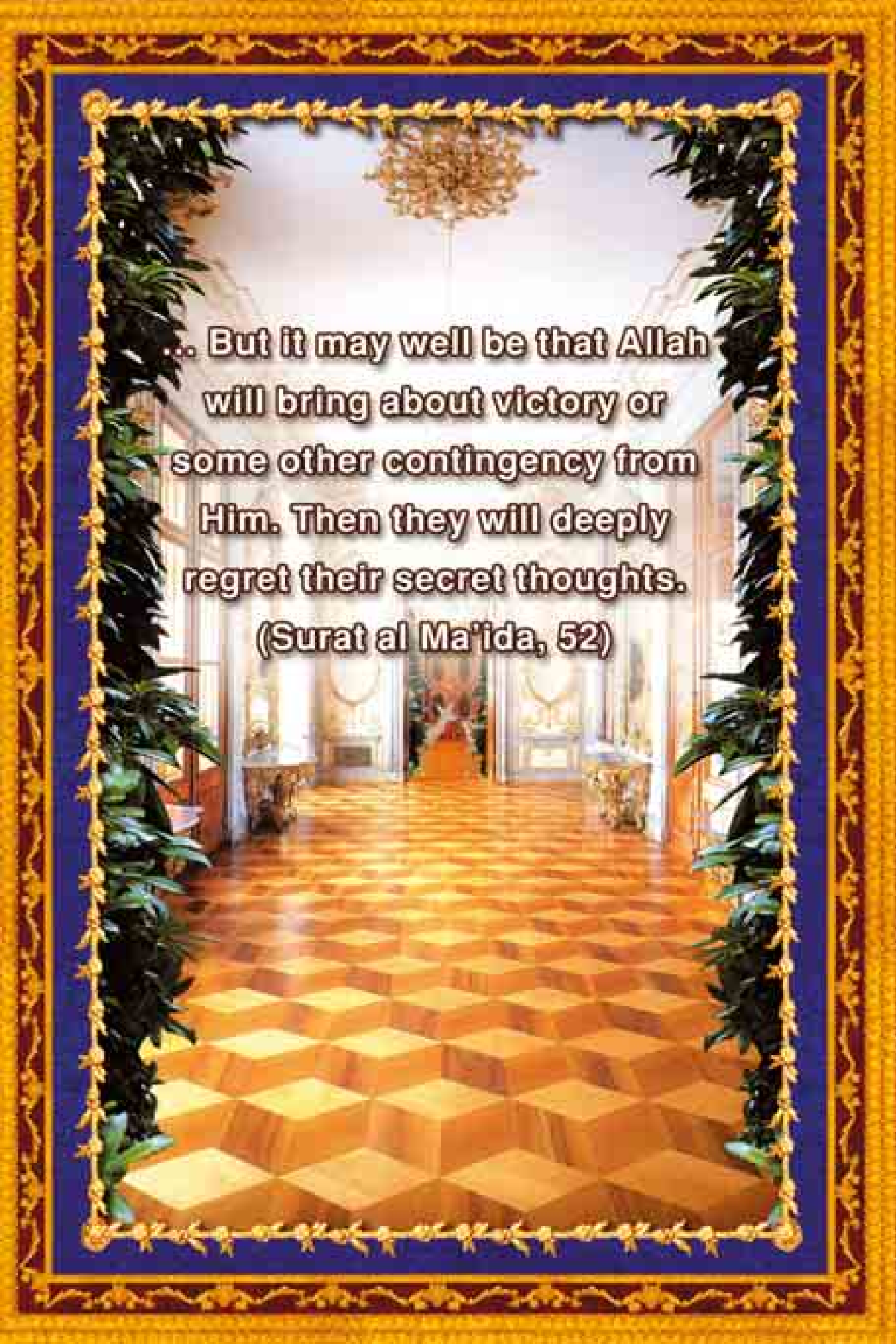
congregation in the morning, the Prophet Jesus, son of Mary, (pbuh) would descend upon them in the morning. Upon this, that Imam would retreat walking backward, so that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh)should come forward to lead people in prayer in congregation. But he would place his hand in between his shoulders and say: "Come forward and lead the prayer, for it has been established for you." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

When the dajjal faces him [Jesus], he [the dajjal] will begin to dissolve like salt in water. He [Jesus] will say to him: "I have to step in; you cannot escape." So Jesus (pbuh) will kill him [make him ineffectivewith his spear at the gate of Ludd. (Sunan Ibn Majah)

Then the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will come to a people whom Allah would protect from dajjal (antichrist). He would then wipe [the traces of hardship from] their faces and tell them their ranks in Paradise. (Sunan Ibn Majah)

The World Will Be at Peace

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will be a just judge and a just ruler in my ummah (people) . . . He will abandon the collection of zakat;grudge and mutual hatred will be lifted (removed), the sting of every stinging insect will be removed until a baby will insert his finger in snake's mouth and it will not harm him, and the wolf will be like the dog among the sheep (safeguarding them). Earth will be filled with peace, just as a vessel is filled with water; the word (kalima) will become one (i.e., only Islam will prevail) and only Allah will be worshipped; the battle will put down its weapons (i.e., come to an end) and the dominion of the Qurayshis will be broken. (Sunan Ibn Majah)


... But it may well be that Allah will bring about victory or some other contingency from Him. Then they will deeply regret their secret thoughts. (Surat al Ma'ida, 52)

[In his time], there will be no rancour between any two persons. (Sahih Muslim)

[In his time], peace will prevail and people will use their swords as sickles. Every harmful beast will be made harmless . . . A child will play with a fox and not come to any harm; a wolf will graze with sheep and a lion with cattle, without harming them. (Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Musnad)

There Will Be Great Prosperity

[When he comes] wealth will be so abundant that no one will accept it [alms]. (Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih al-Muslim)

The son of Mary (Jesus) will return and make the dajjal ineffective. Then you will live for 40 years in prosperity. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, Al-Burhan fi 'Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman, 90)

Everywhere food will cook in pots, unseen prosperity will dominate, and material wealth will be disregarded. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi 'Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar, 66)

"Earth will turn like the silver tray, growing vegetation as it did in the time of Adam (peace be upon him) so much so that a group of people will eat a bunch of grapes and it will satiate them;a group of people will eat a single pomegranate and it will satiate them;the bull will be sold for a lot of money and a horse will cost only a few dirhams." The audience asked: "Allah's Messenger, why will a horse be so cheap? He replied:"It will not be used as a mount for fighting." He was asked:"Why will a bull be so expensive?" He replied:"The whole land would be tilled." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

Productivity of earth will multiply to such an extent that if a seed is

sown in a solid rock, it will grow. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, Kanzal Ummal)

Even without the plough, the produce of wheat would multiply seven hundred times, one mudd (a measure of wheat) becoming 700 mudd. (Jalaluddin al-Suyuti, Mawrid al-Sadi fi Mawlid al-Hadi)

Then Earth will be told to bring forth its fruit and restore its blessing. As a result thereof, there would grow (such a big) pomegranate that a group of people will be able to eat it and seek shelter under its skin. A milk cow will give so much milk that a whole party will able to drink. A milk camel will give such (a large quantity of) milk that the whole tribe will be able to drink out of it, and a milk sheep will give so much milk that the whole family will able to drink out of that… (Sahih Muslim)

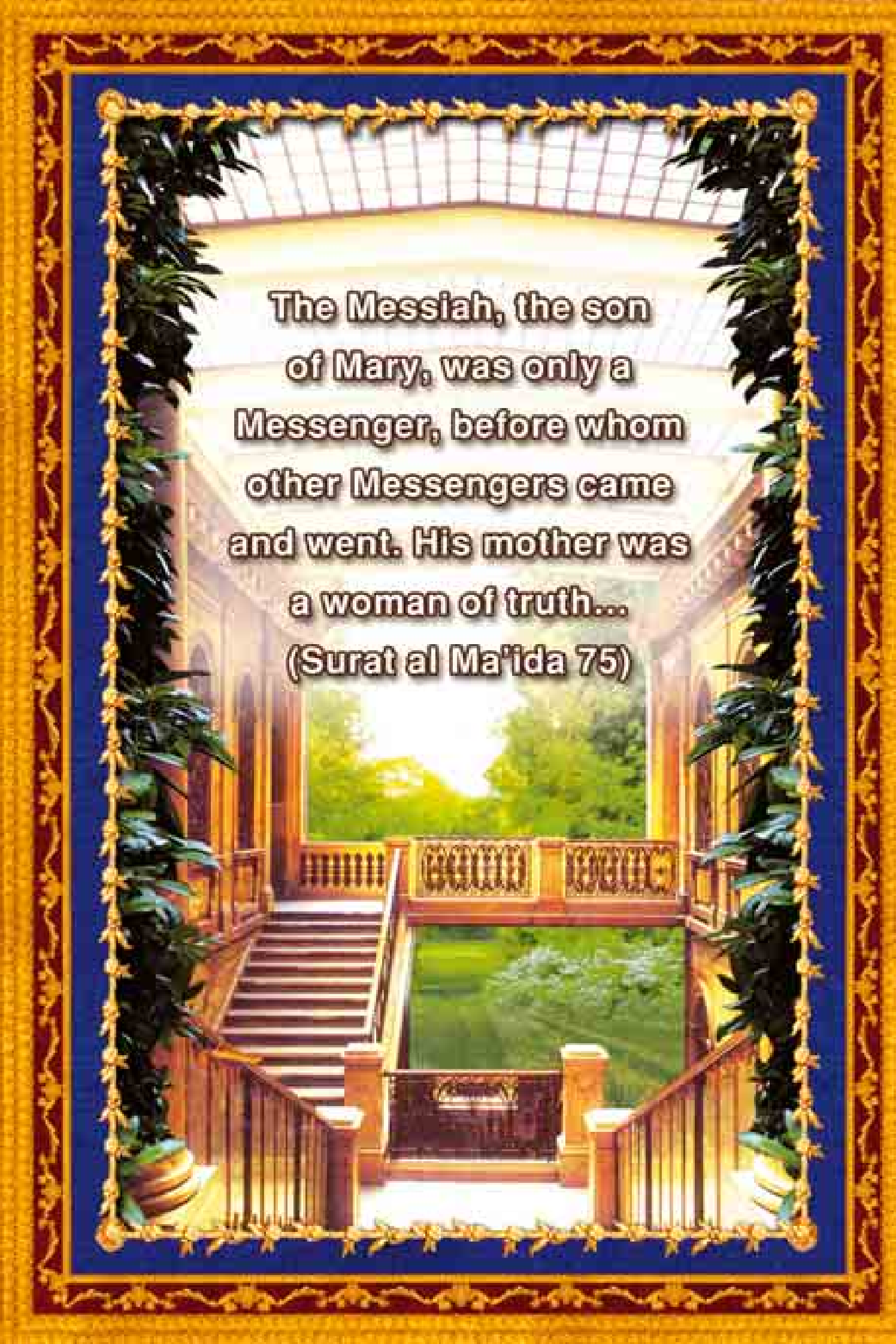
The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) Will Not Bring A New Religion

He will lead you according to the Book of your Lord and the Sunnah of your Apostle. (Sahih Muslim)

Jesus (pbuh) will not come to the people of Muhammad as a Prophet; rather, he will come to practice the religion of Muhammad. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar, 68)

Jesus (pbuh) will descend and will practice our Prophet's law. (Imam Rabbani, Letters of Rabbani, 2:1309)

He will judge by the law of Muhammad. He will follow the Prophet, even though he is one himself, and will belong to the people of Muhammad … He will be one of the people and companions of the


The Messiah, the son
of Mary, was only a
Messenger, before whom
other Messengers came
and went. His mother was
a woman of truth...
(Surat al Ma'ida 75)

Prophet, and he will be the most devout of them … (Al-Barzanji, Al-Isha'ah li-ashrat al-sa'ah, 243)

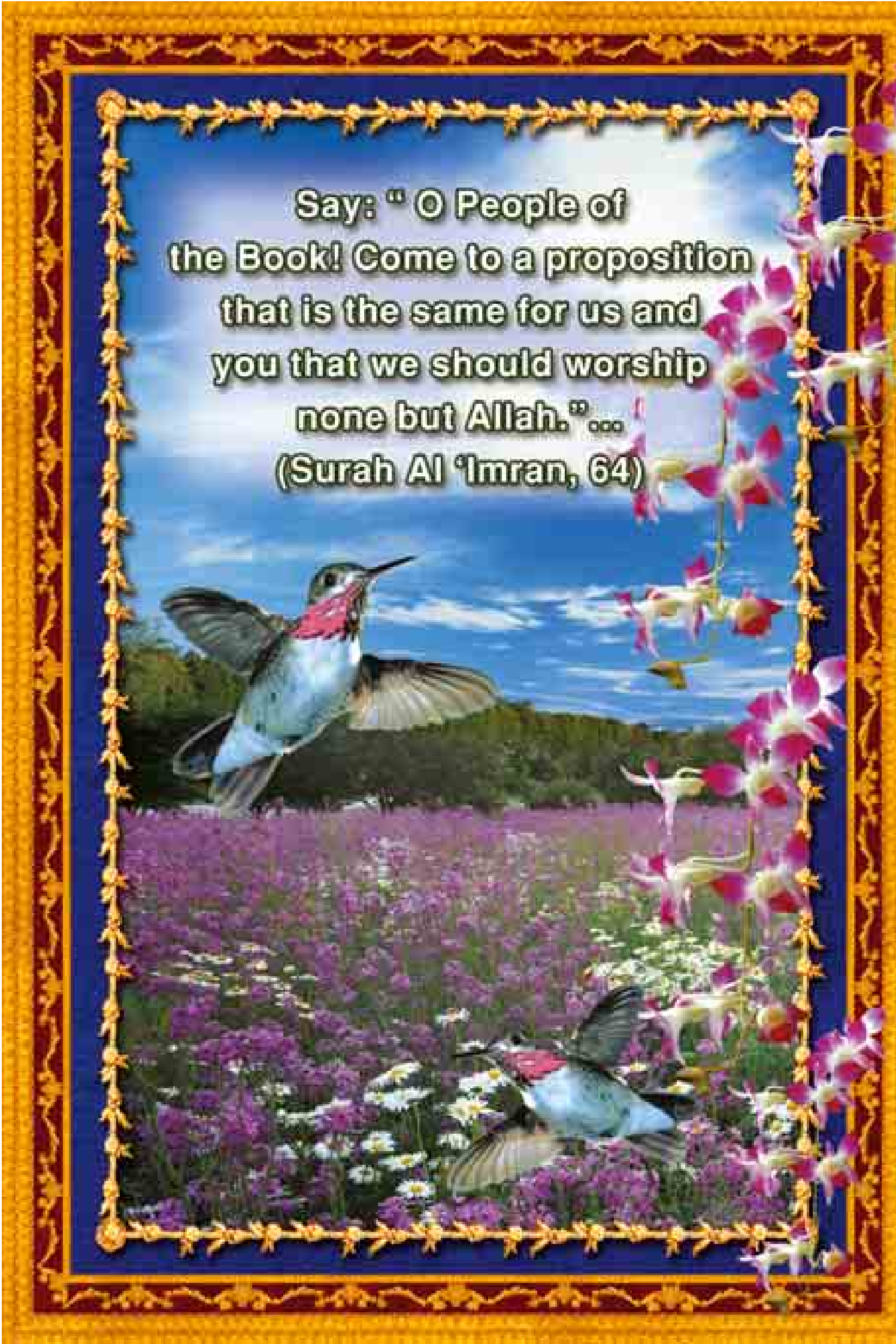
He will himself follow the Qur'an and Hadith and get the people to follow them. (Tabarani)

The Physical Appearance (Hilya) of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh)

He is a man of medium height; of a rudy, fair complexion; will be dressed in two pieces of died garment; and the hair of his head will appear as if water is trickling out of it, although it will not be wet. (Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Musnad)

He has curly red hair and wide shoulders. He will break the cross [he will eliminate the superstitious beliefs included in the Christianity during latter periods] and abolish the jizya, and accept no other religion but Islam … [In his time] Nothing and nobody but Allah will be worshipped. He will practice Muhammad's law and belong to Muhammad's people. He will follow the Prophet even though he himself is a Prophet, because he saw him [Hazrat Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace)] on the night of Mi'raj. Therefore, he [Jesus] will be the most distinguished Companion. (Jalaluddin as-Suyuti, Nuzul 'Isa ibn Maryam Akhir al-Zaman, 182)

The Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) said: "On the night of Isra' [his miraculous journey from Mecca to Jerusalem] I met Moses—he was a slim man with wavy hair, and looked like a man from the Shanu'ah tribe. I also met Jesus (pbuh)—he was of medium height and of a red complexion, as if he had just come out of the bath. (Sahih Muslim and Sahih al-Bukhari)


Say: " O People of
the Book! Come to a proposition
that is the same for us and
you that we should worship
none but Allah."...
(Surah Al 'Imran, 64)

While sleeping near the Ka'bah last night, I saw in my dream a man of brown color the best one can see among those who are brown colored, and his long hair fell between his shoulders. His hair was lank, water dribbled from his head, and he was placing his hands on the shoulders of two men while circumambulating the Ka'bah. I asked: "Who is this?" They replied, "This is Jesus (pbuh), son of Mary." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) Will Be Burried Next to Our Prophet's (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) Tomb

Jesus (pbuh), son of Mary, will come down to the world… He will marry, . . . live for 45 years and then die. He will be buried with me [Hazrat Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace)] in my grave. Then I and Jesus, son of Mary, will stand up in one grave between Abu Bakr and 'Umar. (Wali-ud-din bin Abdullah al-Khatib al-Umari al-Tabrizi, Mishkat al-Masabih, Damascus, 40:4)

Jesus (pbuh) will marry and have a child after he returns. After he dies, the Muslims will perform his funeral prayer and bury him at the Rauza-i-Aqdas. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar, 65)

Jesus (pbuh) will die after living for 40 years. After he dies, the Muslims will perform his funeral prayer and bury him. (Ash-Sharani, Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi, 498-499)

THE PROPHET JESUS' (PBUH) RETURN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

We have remarked in the previous chapters that the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return is very important to Christians. The reason for this is that the Bible, which comprises the Torah and the Gospel (the Four Gospels, various letters and accounts of leading early Christians, and the Revelation of St. John), contains many revelations about the End Times. The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming figures prominently in the Gospel.

The Torah and the Gospel provide various explanations about future events. As we know, while the Torah does not mention the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) by name, it reveals the coming of a Messiah, that is Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh), from David's lineage and Hazrat Mahdi's (pbuh) features are provided in details. The Gospel, however, is full of revelations concerning the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming, the accompanying signs of this blessed incident, and the End Times.

Allah reveals in the Qur'an that both the Torah and the Gospel have been tampered with over time and that, as a result, they contain some false beliefs. While some parts may have remained true to their original form, other parts have been modified, altered, and added to by various people. Given this, we can rely only on their accounts insofar as they are compatible with the Qur'an and the hadiths. As

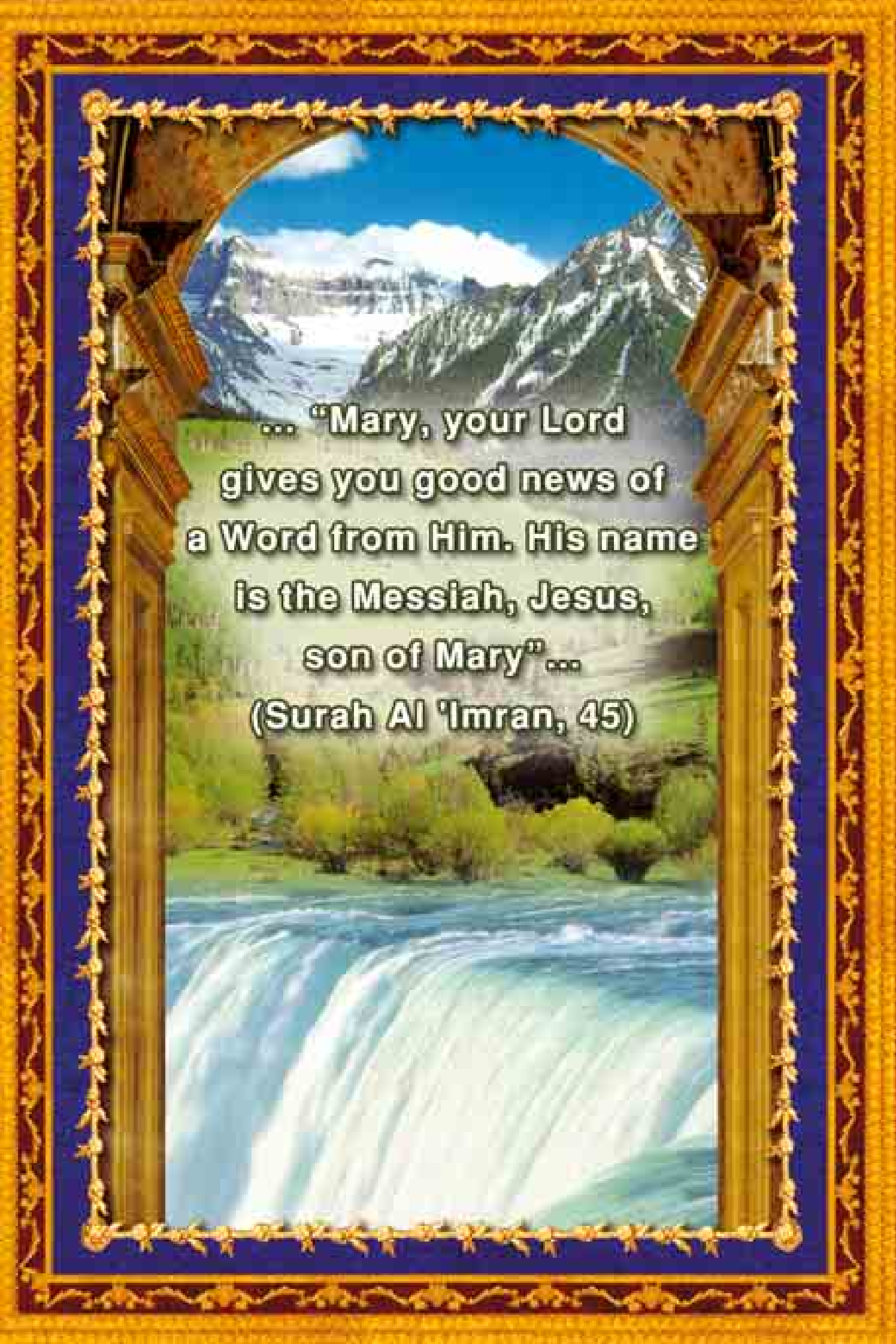
the following examples will demonstrate, there is a great deal of similarity with Islamic sources on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming and the End Times.

When we examine the Gospel, we see that the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming is a central theme. The accounts here relate the natural phenomena and social events that will take place before and after his return. When we look at the Prophet's (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) hadiths relating these events, we notice that the signs of the End Times appear to be more imminent than they were in the past. (For detailed information, see Harun Yahya, *Signs of the Last Day*, Global Publishing, Istanbul, 2003) Strikingly, almost all of signs heralding the advent of the Last Day have appeared in our time. Therefore, we can say that given the information in the Islamic sources, as well as in the Torah and the Gospel, the End Times have arrived.

The Gospel's Account of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Second Coming

Out of the Gospel's 259 chapters, 210 of them contain 318 references about the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming. Clear statements are given below on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) ascent to Allah's Presence and his return to Earth, as follows:

> *"So if anyone tells you: 'There he [the Messiah] is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or: 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." (Matthew 24:26-27)*
>
> *So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (Matthew 24:44)*


... "Mary, your Lord
gives you good news of
a Word from Him. His name
is the Messiah, Jesus,
son of Mary" ...
(Surah Al 'Imran, 45)

… The appearing of our teacher Jesus, which God will bring about in His own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:15-16)

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8)

This good news of God will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

"At that time, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and all the nations of Earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:30)

"Men of Galilee," they [angels] said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into Heaven." (Acts 1:11)

"…the Heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for ... the teacher Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20)

"Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him." (Revelation 1:7)

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn Godlessness away from [the line of] Jacob. (Romans 11:25-26)

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it [the coming of Jesus] is near, right at the door. (Matthew 24:32-33)

As stated earlier, the Prophet Jesus will inauguate an era of justice, wealth, and virtue upon his second coming. As the Gospel says:

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

This, then, is how you should pray: ... Your kingdom come ... (Matthew 6:9-10)

People will come from the east and the west, and [from] the north and the south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed, there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last. (Luke 13:29-30)

Clearly, there are striking similarities between the accounts of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism concerning the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming and the global rule of religious morality. This harmony has engendered a great anticipation in all three religions. The era in which we live is probably the one in which the anticipation of this miracle has reached its apex and is also near to be fulfilled. This is a great news that helps the believers retain their high morale.



BEDIUZZAMAN SAID NURSI DELIVERED THE GOOD NEWS OF THE PROPHET JESUS' (PBUH) SECOND COMING TO THE MUSLIMS

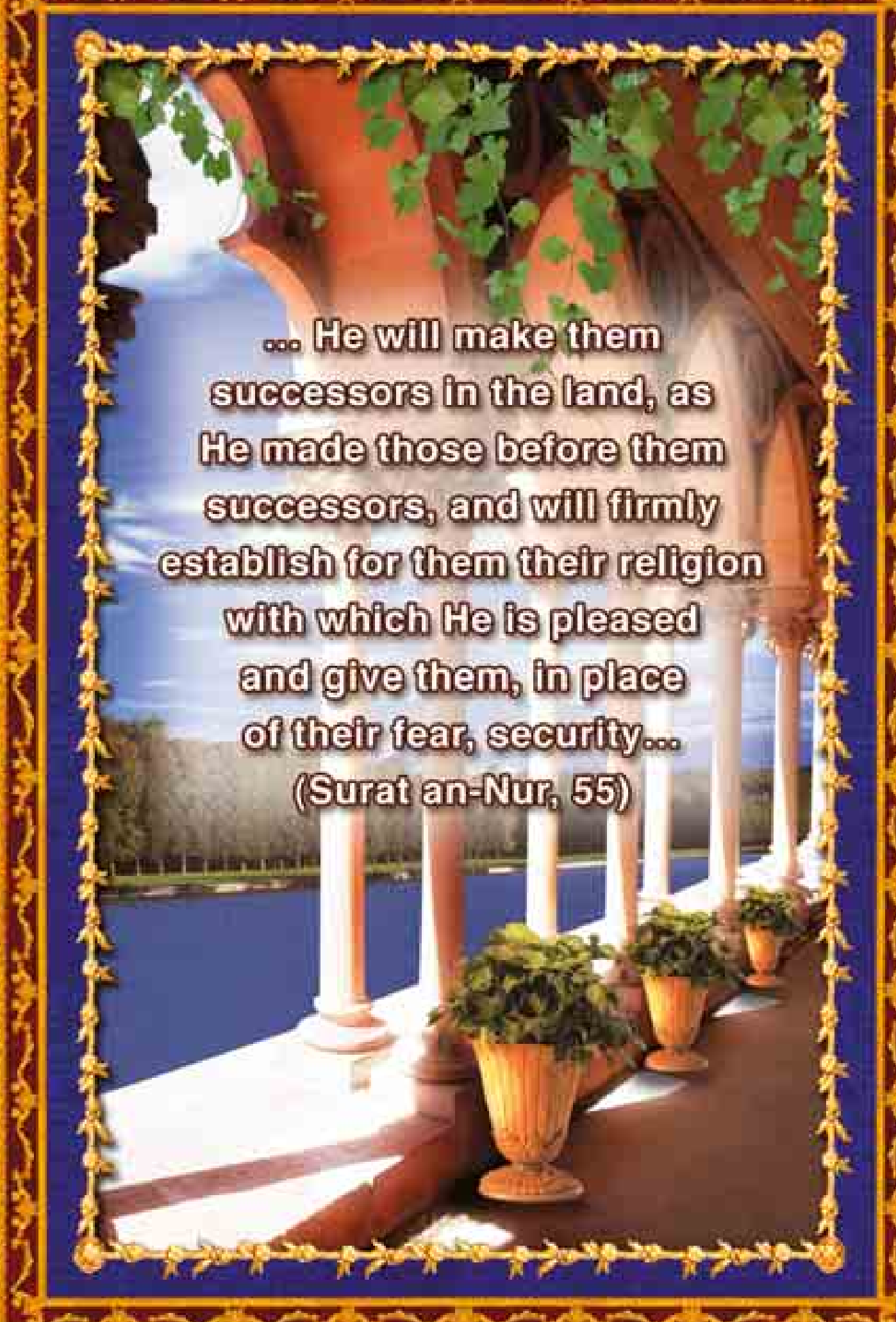
Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (1877-1960), one of the greatest Islamic scholars, spent his entire life inviting people to believe in Allah and to live by the morality prescribed in the Qur'an. He suffered great hardship in this cause, but was always pleased with his lot and met every difficulty with faith in Allah, patience, and joy. Bediuzzaman's Qur'anic commentary, the Risale-i Nur Collection, is full of precious advice reflecting his exuberant love of and faith in Allah and his devotion to Allah's religion. For this reason, his works are an important reference source for all believers.

Bediuzzaman wrote extensively on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming, particularly about his struggle with the dajjal, the representative figurehead of all Godless ideological systems. Together with Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh), the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will eliminate Godlessness and declare the rule of Allah's law with the help of the Muslims.

In this part, we will deal with his views on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming and related matters.

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Ascent to Allah's Presence

In the introduction to *The Letters*, Bediuzzaman speaks of three levels of life: that of our life, that of the life of Khidr,


... He will make them
successors in the land, as
He made those before them
successors, and will firmly
establish for them their religion
with which He is pleased
and give them, in place
of their fear, security...
(Surat an-Nur, 55)

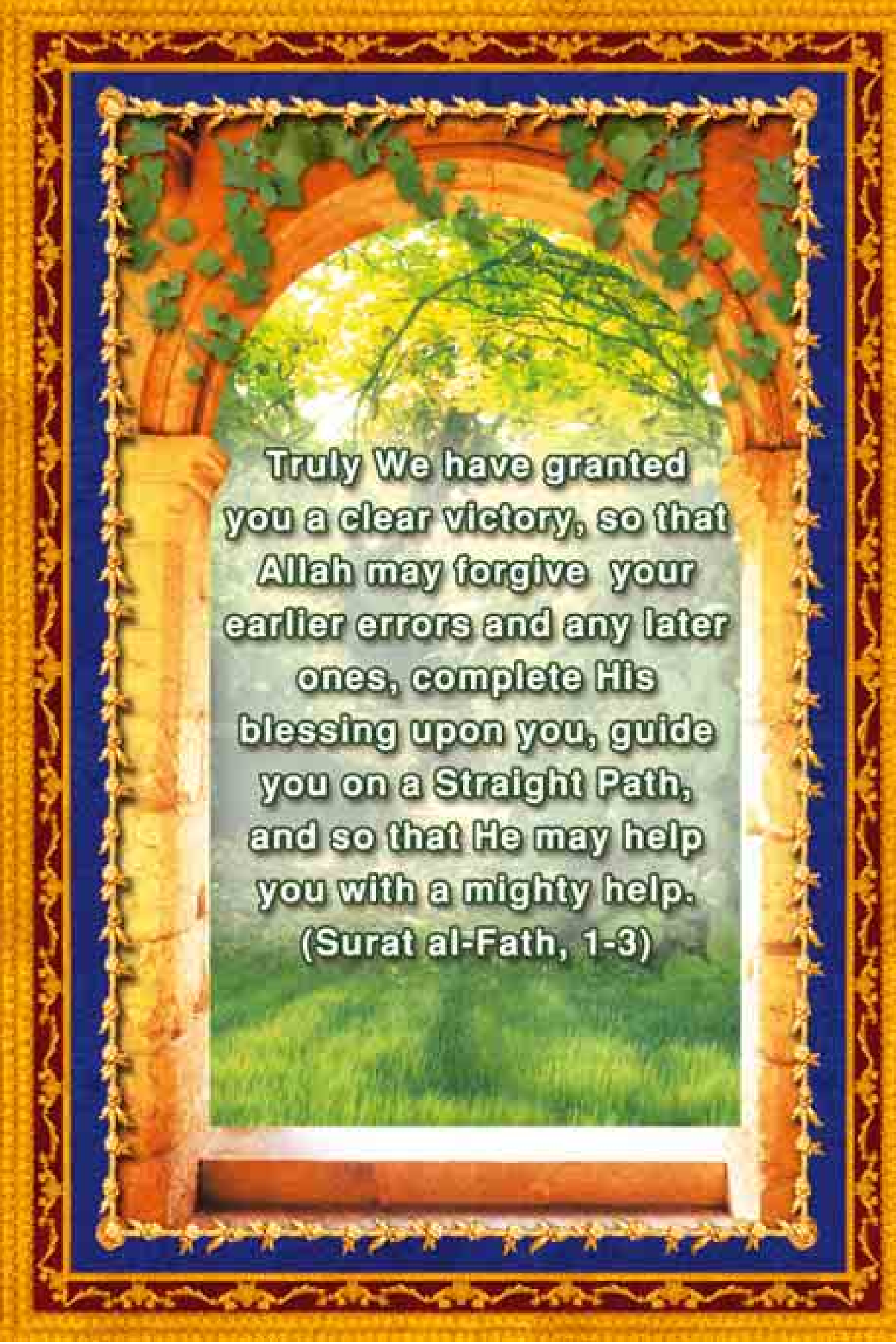
and that of the life of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Bediuzzaman explains the second level of life, as follows: "…they can be present in numerous places at the same time. They are not permanently restricted by the requirements of humanity like us. They can eat and drink like us when they want to, but are not compelled to like we are…"

Bediuzzaman says the following about the third level of life:

The Third Level of Life is that of Enoch and the Prophet Jesus (May Allah grant them peace) which, being removed from the requirements of humanity, rises to an angelic level of life and acquires a luminous fineness. Quite simply, Enoch and the Prophet Jesus are present in Allah's Sight with their earthly bodies, which have the subtlety of bodies from the World of Similitudes and the luminosity of star-like bodies. (Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, Risale-i Nur Collection, Letters, "First Letter." All quotations from Bediuzzaman are taken from www.bediuzzaman.org)

Bediuzzaman also points out the existence of doubt over the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming. Bediuzzaman reminds us that our all-powerful Lord Who has created the universe from nothing, is certainly able to bring the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) back for a second time:

Indeed, it is not far from the wisdom of an All-Wise One of Glory Who all the time sends the angels to Earth from the heavens, sometimes in human form (like Gabriel appearing in the form of Dihya), and sends spirit beings from the Spirit World making them appear in human form, and even sends the spirits of most of the dead saints to the world with similitudes of their bodies, it would not be far from His Wisdom—even if he was not alive and present with his body in the skies of the world, and had truly died and departed for the furthest corner of the Hereafter—to clothe Jesus (pbuh) in his body and


Truly We have granted
you a clear victory, so that
Allah may forgive your
earlier errors and any later
ones, complete His
blessing upon you, guide
you on a Straight Path,
and so that He may help
you with a mighty help.
(Surat al-Fath, 1-3)

send him to the world, so to bring the religion of Jesus to a good conclusion; for such a momentous result. Indeed He promised it because His wisdom required it to be thus, and since He promised it, He will most certainly send him. (Letters, "Fifteenth Letter")

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) Will Be Recognized by the Light of Faith

The question of exactly how the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will be recognized on his second coming has been asked ever since his ascension to Allah's Presence. Bediuzzaman says that he will be recognized by the light of his faith. However, Bediuzzaman also points out that only those who are close to him and have deep faith will be able to recognize him:

When Jesus (upon whom be peace) comes, it is not necessary that everyone should know him to be the true Jesus. His elect and those close to him will recognize him through the light of belief. It will not be self-evident so that everyone will recognize him. (Letters, "Fifteenth Letter,")

Bediuzzaman also says that only a few people will recognize him, at least in the beginning, and that the irreligious currents will be very strong:

It says in a narration in connection with the Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him) making the dajjal ineffective: "The dajjal will have a colossal form, he will be extraordinarily big and taller than a minaret, while the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will be very small in comparison."

None knows the Unseen save Allah. One interpretation must be as follows: It is an allusion and sign that quantitively the spiritual

community of mujahideen [those who struggle in Allah's cause] who will recognize Jesus (peace be upon him) and follow him, will be very few and small comparatively to the "scientific," physical armies of the dajjal. (Rays, "Fifth Ray,")

"... the 'scientific,' physical armies of the dajjal...": Through this expression, Bediuzzaman reveals that the Prophet Jesus' opposition will be very strong in terms of education, military power, and financial might. While their education system propagates irreligion, the military is working to disseminate the same irreligious ideologies.

"... the spiritual community of mujahideen...": This expression describes the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) followers. The word "community" indicates that they are close to one another and act together. This community's members will make great efforts to establish the morality of religion where the powers of irreligion rule, and will be dedicated to work on Allah's path. They will engage in a great ideological battle to destroy the irreligion created and spread by the education system and the military. The word "spiritual" points out this community's genuine faith, as its members are fully aware of the spiritual dimension of things as well as their material appearance. "Mujahideen" stands for a group of people



who work for the cause of Allah, actively promoting His religion throughout the world.

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) Will Rule with the Law of Islam and Adhere to the Qur'an

Bediuzzaman reveals that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return at a time when irreligious ideologies rule the world. As the following quote states, he will rule with, and be bound by, the Qur'an on his second coming. Christianity and Islam will unite and succeed by living according to the Qur'an's morality. The Risale-i Nur says that:

> *"At the end of time, Jesus (upon whom be peace) will come and will act in accordance with the Shari'ah of Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace)," indicates that at the end of time the religion of Christianity will be purified and divest itself of superstition in the face of the current of unbelief and atheism born of naturalist philosophy, and will be transformed into Islam. At this point, the collective personality of Christianity will kill the fearsome collective personality of irreligion with the sword of heavenly revelation; so too, representing the collective personality of Christianity, Jesus (upon whom be peace) will kill the dajjal [make him ineffective], who represents the collective personality of irreligion, that is, he will kill atheistic thought. (Letters, "First Letter")*

"... in the face of the current of unbelief and atheism born of naturalist philosophy": Bediuzzaman reveals that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will lead a great struggle against the irreligious movements created by Darwinism and those who deny Allah's existence.

"... the religion of Christianity will be purified and divest itself of superstition … and will be transformed into Islam": Here,

Bediuzzaman interprets the hadith that says that when the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) returns in the End Times, he will abide by Islam's law and rules. His struggle will begin by cleansing Christianity from all of the myths and false beliefs that have entered into it over the centuries, and thereby return it to Islam.

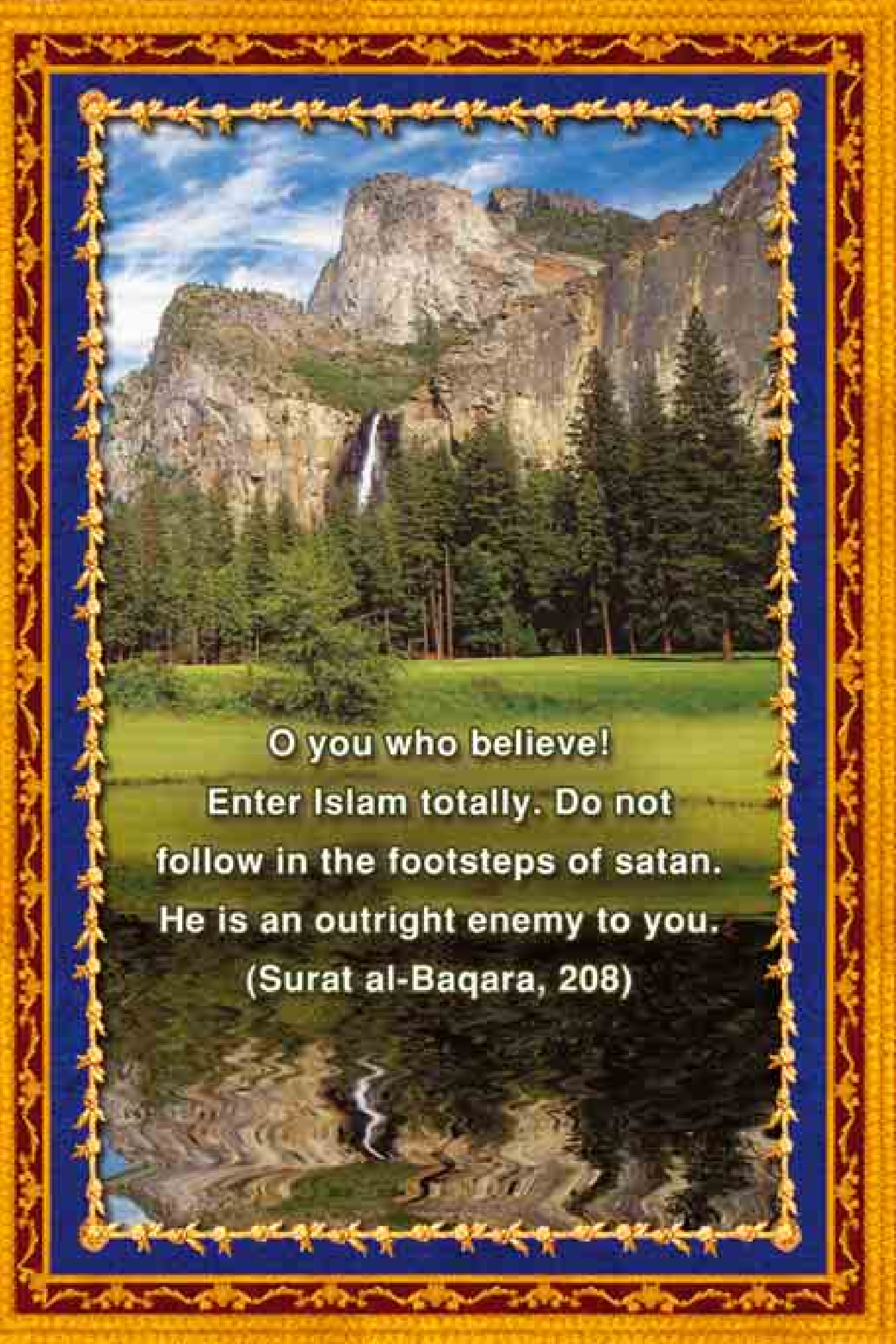
In this way, Christians and Muslims will unite to form a great power. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will make the dajjal ineffective, who is the representative of all irreligious systems, and eradicate them.

> *(2) At that point when the current appears to be very strong, the religion of true Christianity, which comprises the collective personality of Jesus (pbuh), will emerge. That is, it will descend from the skies of Divine Mercy. Present Christianity will be purified in the face of that reality; it will cast off superstition and distortion, and unite with the truths of Islam. Christianity will in effect be in a way transformed into Islam. (Letters, "Fifteenth Letter")*

Although the dajjal will appear to be very powerful, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return to Earth and reveal true Christianity. As stated earlier, the first thing that he will do is restore Christianity to its original form by removing all false and baseless practices and beliefs (pbuh) and all unnecessary rules and traditions. This has not happened until today because the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is the only person who can end Christianity's ongoing 2,000-year process of change.

"… [Present Christianity will] unite with the truths of Islam. Christianity will in effect be in a way transformed into Islam…": Once Christianity has been returned to the state of its first revelation, it will integrate itself into Islam.

> *Following the Qur'an, the collective personality of Christianity will be in the rank of follower, and Islam, in that of leader. True religion*


O you who believe!
Enter Islam totally. Do not
follow in the footsteps of satan.
He is an outright enemy to you.
(Surat al-Baqara, 208)

will become a mighty force as a result of its joining it. Although defeated before the atheistic current while separate, Christianity and Islam will have the capability to defeat and rout it as a result of their union. Then the person of Jesus (pbuh), who is present with his human body in the world of the heavens, will come to lead the current of true religion, as, relying on the promise of One Powerful Over All Things, the Bringer of Sure News has said. Since he has told of it, it is true, and since the One Powerful Over All Things has promised it, He will certainly bring it about. (Letters, "Fifteenth Letter")

"... Following the Qur'an, the collective personality of Christianity will be in the rank of follower, and Islam, in that of leader…": This transformation of Christianity, beginning with the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), will conclude in everyone adhering to the Qur'an, as required by the final book of revelation. Both the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and Christianity as a whole will adhere to Islam.

"... Although defeated before the atheistic current while separate, Christianity and Islam will have the capability to defeat and rout it as a result of their union...": A great power will form when Christianity, under the leadership of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), adheres to the Qur'an, because the world's two greatest religions are two huge powers in terms of politics, economics, and spirituality. After their unification, they will have enough power to destroy all forms of irreligion. Materialist philosophy, which distances people from their true purpose in life and forces them into selfishness, lovelessness, and aggressiveness, will be eradicated, along with all forms of irreligion.

"… Then the person of Jesus (pbuh), who is present with his human body in the world of the heavens, will come to lead the current of true religion…": This alliance, when combined with the Christians' accep-

tance of the Qur'an, will achieve a global majority status and move as one body. Bediuzzaman reminds us that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will come to Earth and lay irreligious movements to waste and stresses that this news is therefore true knowledge.

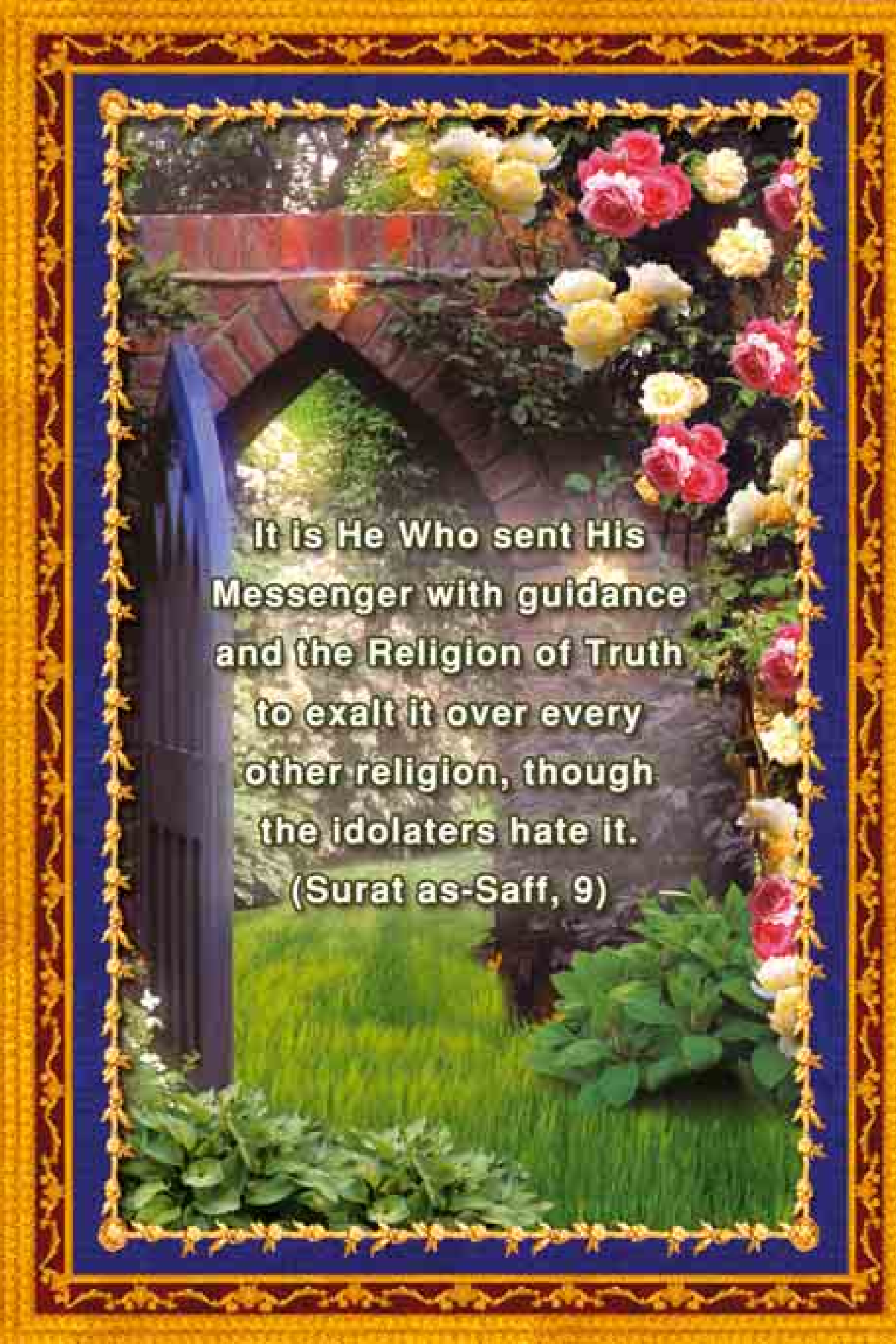
The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Struggle Against Irreligious Movements

When speaking of the End Times, Bediuzzaman asserts that two ideological movements will create disorder in their quest to establish the rule of irreligion. One of these will try to destroy the morality of Islam from within, while the other movement will reject Allah's existence openly. Its members will claim that matter has always existed and will continue to exist forever, and that life emerged from lifeless matter by means of a series of coincidences. This movement will represent the Darwinist and materialist philosophies.

This definition forms the basis of all atheist ideologies. Ever since the beginning of recorded history, materialists have opposed true religion and fought those who adhered to it and called others to do so. They oppressed people, made war, and were always found at the forefront of all kinds of decadence. In his second coming, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will give an ideological struggle against this Darwinist mentality and defeat it, by the will of Allah.

In his Collected Works, Bediuzzaman says the following:

A tyrannical current born of Naturalist and Materialist philosophy will gradually become strong and spread at the end of time by means of materialist philosophy, reaching such a degree that it denies Allah… The members of that current, who deny Allah, each ascribes dominicality to his soul like a little Nimrod. And the greatest of


It is He Who sent His
Messenger with guidance
and the Religion of Truth
to exalt it over every
other religion, though
the idolaters hate it.
(Surat as-Saff, 9)

them, the dajjal, who will come to lead them, will manifest awesome wonders, a sort of spiritualism and hypnosis; he will go even further, and imagining his tyrannical, superficial rule to be a sort of dominicality, he will proclaim his godhead. (Letters, "Fifteenth Letter")

Bediuzzaman refers to the destructive effects of the naturalist-materialist philosophies on society. His words "a tyrannical current born of naturalist and materialist philosophy" seem to indicate materialism and Darwinism, the foundations of atheism. In the end times, these two philosophies will spread around the world on the back of the materialist philosophy and openly deny the existence of Allah. Its proponents, in their own way,deny the infinite power of Allah and instead are deluded to believe themselves to have powers independent of Him.

He gives the following account of the irreligious powers formed by the antichrist:

Moreover, in the world of humanity, with the intention of denying the Godhead, the secret society of the dajjal (antichrist) will overturn civilization and subvert all mankind's sacred matters. A zealous and self-sacrificing community known as a Christian community, but worthy of being called "Muslim Christians," will work to unite the true religion of Jesus (pbuh) with the reality of Islam, and will kill and rout that society of the dajjal [make him ineffective], thus saving humanity from atheism. (Letters, 515)

"… with the intention of denying the Godhead, the secret society of the dajjal (antichrist) will overturn civilization and subvert all mankind's sacred matters…": Bediuzzaman defines the irreligious movements represented by the dajjal as a secret society that will overturn civilization and subvert all mankind's sacred matters in order to deny Allah's existence.

"... A zealous and self-sacrificing community known as a Christian community but worthy of being called 'Muslim Christians', will work to unite the true religion of the Prophet Jesus ((pbuh)) with the reality of Islam…": Bediuzzaman calls the devoted Christians who will work tirelessly with the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) to unify the Christian and Islamic faiths after Christianity has been purified, Muslim Christians. This "Muslim Christian" community will destroy the irreligious ideological systems represented in the being of dajjal.

Another explanation by Bediuzzaman on the subject reads:

"He [the antichrist] will be so powerful and long-lived that only Jesus (pbuh) will be able to kill him [make him ineffective]; nothing else will be able to." That is, it will only be a revealed, elevated, pure religion that will be able to overturn his way and rapacious regime, and eliminate them. Such a religion will emerge among the true followers of Jesus (pbuh), and it will follow the Qur'an and become united with it. On the coming of Jesus (pbuh) and emergence of the true Christian religion, the antichrist's irreligious way will be wiped out and will cease. The antichrist's person could otherwise be killed by a mere germ or by influenza. (Rays, "Fifth Ray")

Bediuzzaman draws the attention to the hadith that indicates that only the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will be able to destroy the dajjal and his established and aggressive regime, and abolish his irreligious way. He will be accompanied by the genuine Christians who have freed themselves of myths and have surrendered to the Qur'an. With the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming, the dajjal's irreligious way will perish.

"Antichrist's irreligious way will be wiped out and will cease. The antichrist's person could otherwise be killed by a mere germ or by influenza": Bediuzzaman touches here on a very important subject. What matters is not to incapacitate those people one by one who

work to spread irreligion ideologically, but to eradicate all schools of thought which enable irreligious movements to exist. It is not difficult to have individuals ideologically incapacitated.

Bediuzzaman continues:

It could only be a wondrous person with the power of miracles who could make dajjal ineffective and change his waysof the awesome dajjal, who will preserve himself through wonders, bestowed on him by Allah in order to lead him astray, such as magic, hypnotic powers, and spiritualism, and will spellbind everyone. And that person will be Jesus (pbuh), who is the prophet of the majority of mankind… (Rays, "Fifth Ray")

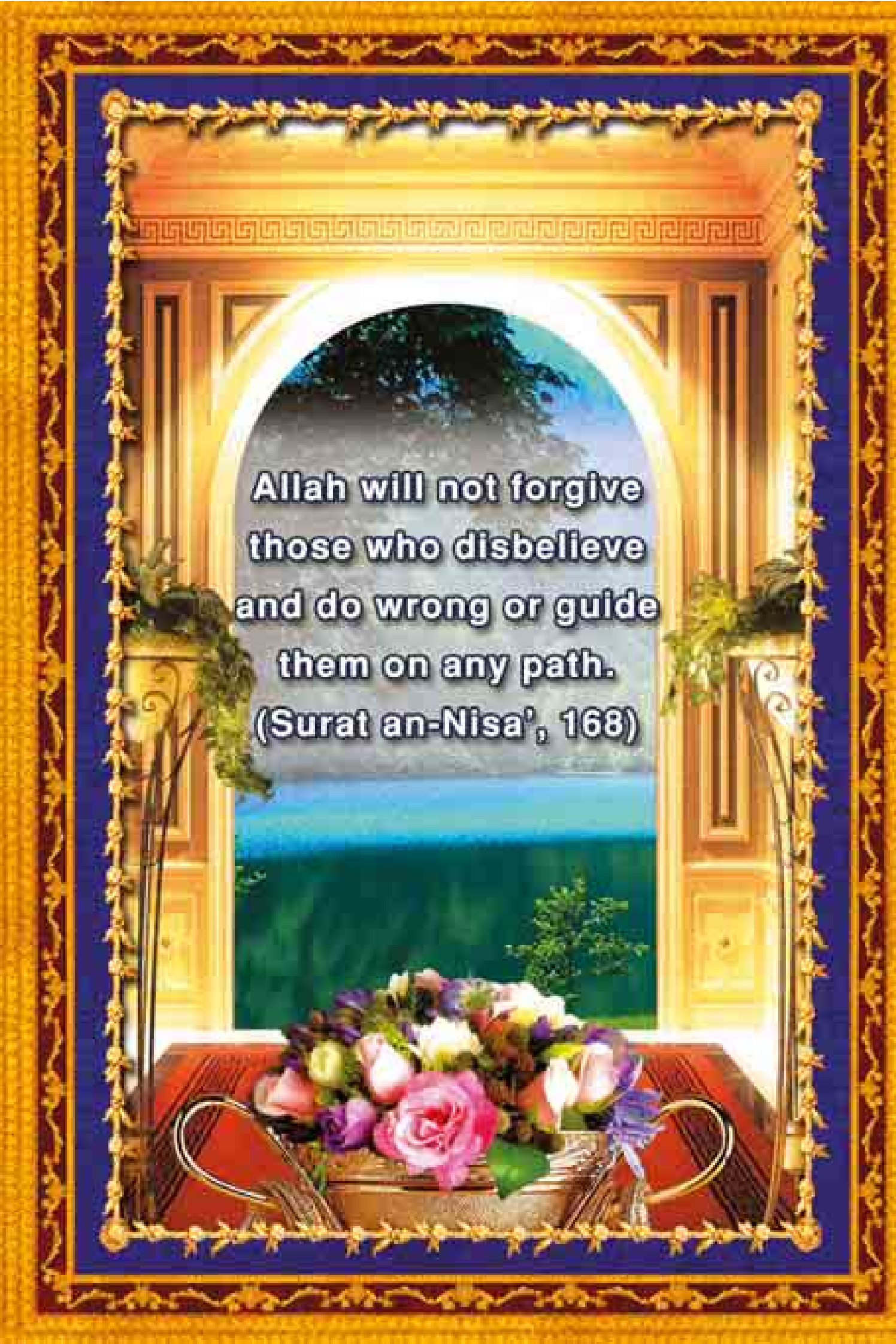
Bediuzzaman reveals here that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is the only person who can eradicate the irreligious movements that are trying to increase people's denial by deception and through misleading them, and that only he can force the dajjal to change his chosen way.

… The Great dajjal will abrogate the injunctions of the Christian Law, and destroying the bonds in accordance with which the life of Christian society is administered, he will prepare the ground for anarchy and Gog and Magog. (Rays, "Fifth Ray")

Bediuzzaman uses the word "dajjal" to define all the irreligious thought systems combined, and states that it is a movement that seeks to do away with all of the injunctions in Christianity, to destroy all the spiritual bonds between people, and to entice them to rebellion, corruption, and anarchy.

Bediuzzaman defines the annihilation of irreligious movements by the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the Christians as follows:

It will be the truly pious followers of Jesus (pbuh) who will make ineffective the collective personality and the huge statue of materialism and irreligion embodied in the dajjal—for the dajjal will be


Allah will not forgive
those who disbelieve
and do wrong or guide
them on any path.
(Surat an-Nisa', 168)

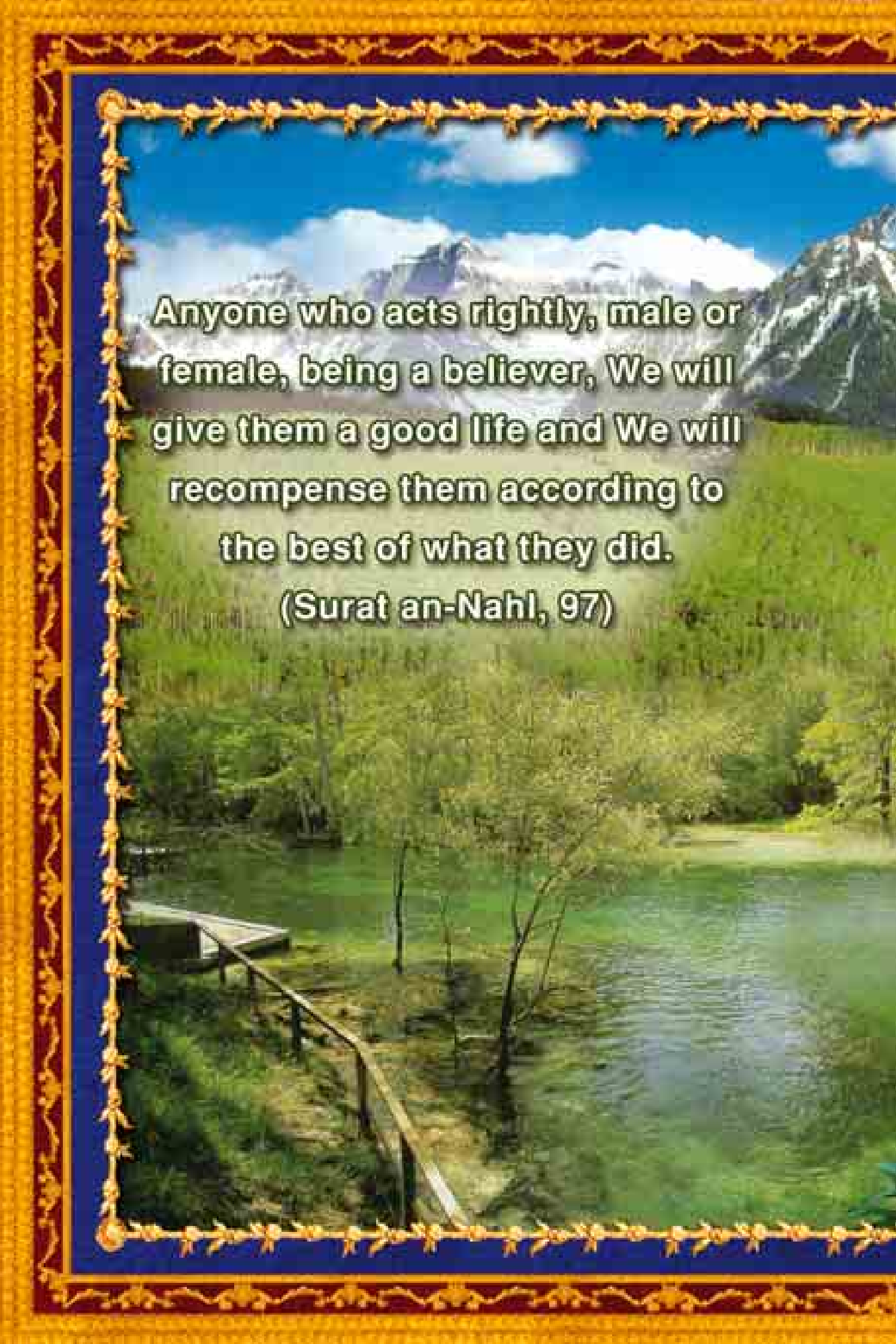
killed [made ineffective] by Jesus' (pbuh) sword—and destroy his ideas and disbelief, which are atheistic. Those truly pious Christians will blend the essence of true Christianity with the essence of Islam and rout the dajjal with their combined strength, in effect killing him [making him ineffective]… (Rays, "The Fifth Ray")

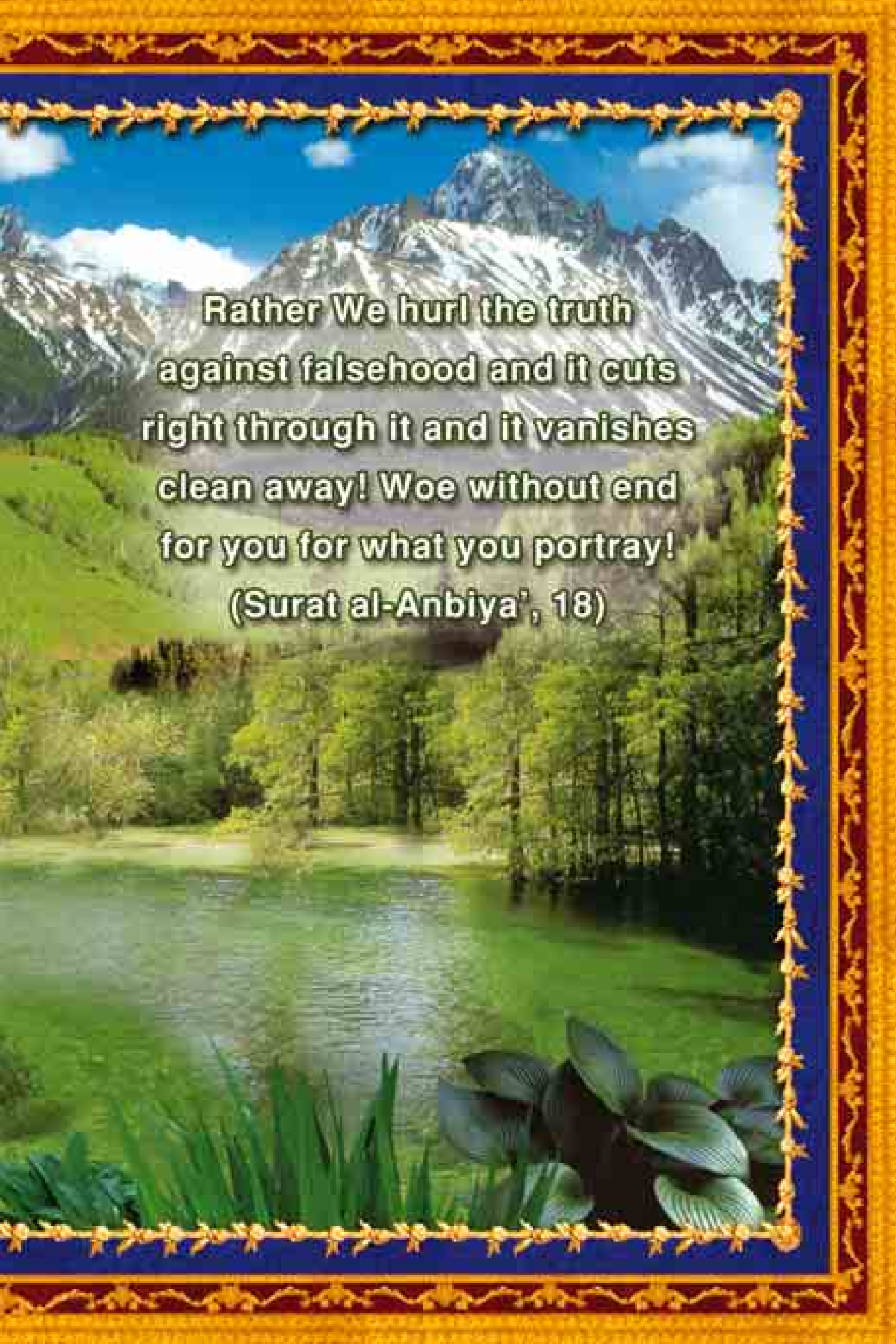
"the huge statue of materialism and irreligion": With these words Bediuzzaman likens the globally influential materialist movements to a huge statue. This statue could be indicating that these movements will be established and strong. It is a hard task to uproot and destroy a big statue. However, with its destruction, materialism as well as irreligion will disappear.

"… will blend the essence of true Christianity with the essence of Islam": When the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) returns, he will be subject to Allah's final book of revelation, restore Christianity to its original form, and unite it with Islam.

"… rout the dajjal with their combined strength, in effect killing him [making him ineffective]": When the two true religions of Allah unite, they will have gained much power in the wider sense of the word. They will defeat the materialist ideologies ruling the world and free all people from their hegemony.

In all of his statements concerning the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming, Bediuzzaman stated that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will unite with Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh) and his group, pray behind Hazrat Mahdi (pbuh) and thus abide by his leadership, and do away with all the sufferings inflicted upon people by irreligious systems.


Anyone who acts rightly, male or female, being a believer, We will give them a good life and We will recompense them according to the best of what they did.
(Surat an-Nahl, 97)


Rather We hurl the truth
against falsehood and it cuts
right through it and it vanishes
clean away! Woe without end
for you for what you portray!
(Surat al-Anbiya', 18)

WELCOMING THE PROPHET JESUS (PBUH) IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY

So far, this book has explored the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming in light of the Qur'an, our Prophet's hadiths, and excerpts from the Torah and the Gospel. Allah reveals in the Qur'an the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) ascent into the heavens and the signs accompanying his second coming. Many hadiths, such as: "By the One in Whose hand is my self, definitely the son of Mary will soon descend among you as a just judge," also provide many examples of what the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will do and the prevailing conditions at that time. These revelations are so clear that there is no room for doubt. Moreover, they coincide even in the details with what we see in our own day. For centuries, many scholars expressed their valuable opinions on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming and informed people about the conditions that he will face. The Gospel also contains much clear evidence about his second coming. For example the Gospel says: "... This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

Given the above evidence as well as humanity's current condition, there may be only 15 or 20 years until the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return. Or, perhaps he has already returned. This news is a source of encouragement, happiness, and motivation for all people.

The Importance of Preparing for the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) in Joy, Excitement, and Exuberance

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is a blessed Messenger whom Allah graced with a miraculous life and honored by being chosen as a Prophet. Allah revealed that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is **"of high esteem in this world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near [to My Presence]"** (Surah Al 'Imran, 45), and that he will be rewarded with Paradise. For this reason, all people must welcome him in the nicest possible way when he returns. Even a poor person prepares his or her house days in advance for an expected guest, and strives to be proper and worthy. On the other hand, given that the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is a most valued guest as well as a Prophet with superior qualities, everyone must welcome his return to Earth in the nicest way possible.

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming is a very great gift of Allah for all humanity, and it is an equally great gift to meet with this valued Prophet. When he comes, he will draw everyone's attention with his innocent, pure, and bright face, and will capture humanity's attention with his accurate, wise, and insightful speech. For the first time ever in their lives, all people alive at that time will see a Prophet of superior human qualities. Allah willing, his second life will be as full of miracles as was his first life. All people will admire him for his virtue and unrivalled wisdom. His every word will be inspired by Allah, and his every decision will be accurate.

All people, especially believing Christians and Muslims, must prepare in excitement, vigor, and great exuberance for his arrival. Those who do not do so are committing a great error, for it is

a grave act of disrespect to be lazy or unconcerned about the arrival of such an important guest. Those who believe Allah's words must ponder the developments in the world and be aware of the signs of the End Times in order to prepare for this most important guest's arrival. They cannot say "I believe in the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming" and then think along the lines of "but I will prepare later or make up for it later." Which conscientious, genuine Christian could say, when the appointed time has come: "We were expecting the Prophet Jesus (pbuh), but didn't consider it necessary to prepare for it"? If they say so because they believe that this event might be another 15-20 years away, they are mistaken, because they will see that 15-20 years can pass just like 15-20 days. As a result, they will suffer great remorse for their indifference. No one should forget that people in the 1970s thought of the 1980s or 1990s as the distant future. However, time passed quickly and brought the new millennium. Likewise, the day of our meeting with the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will arrive soon, Allah willing.



The Appearance of False Messiahs Is a Sign of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) Imminent Arrival

Some people might want to induce indifference in those believers who want to prepare for the arrival of Allah's blessed messenger. They might try to "prove" that all such preparations are unnecessary. One such method will be the appearance of

false Messiahs. In the past, some insane or greedy people have claimed to be the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Some circles have tried to use these ignorant people to their advantage by making statements to the effect that "the belief in the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming inevitably creates false Messiahs." In this way, they sought to slow down or even stop the preparations for his arrival. However, no one can delay the arrival of this celebrated time promised by Allah, because they just cannot comprehend the fact that the emergence of false Messiahs is a sign of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) imminent arrival. Many Bible verses refer to this, such as:

> *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming: 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." (Matthew 24:3-5)*
>
> *At that time if anyone says to you: "Look, here is the Christ!" or "There he is!" do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. (Matthew 24:23-25)*

The true believers will recognize the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) immediately by his signs. His every move will be full of wisdom and unique, and so distinguish him from all other people that he will be recognizable without any need for proof. The false Messiahs' desperate efforts to prove themselves will only expose them as frauds.

In addition, the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) deeds will be his proof. He will deal a deadly blow to those atheist movements that seek to spread irreligion and immorality. Since he will be guided by reve-

lation, he will foil the unbelievers' traps with great ease, curb the efforts of irreligion, and spread Allah's true religion. Through his miracles, he will prove that Allah's religion is true and that the believers will succeed. Our Lord reveals in the Qur'an:

> **They desire to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His Light, though the unbelievers hate it. It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, though the idolaters hate it. (Sureat as-Saff, 8-9)**

The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) Will Be Recognized by the Fact That He Will Have No Relatives and That No One Will Know Him

One of the most important factors that will distinguish the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) from false messiahs will be his lack of parents, relatives, friends, and acquaintances.

As revealed in the previous chapters, the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was born by Allah's command "Be!" and without a father. Allah likens this situation to that of Adam's creation:

> **The likeness of Jesus in Allah's Sight is the same as Adam. He created him from earth and then He said to him: "Be!" and he was. (Surah Al 'Imran, 59)**

Both Adam and the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) were created by Allah's command: "Be!" Adam had no parents, and the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) had just his mother Mary. But on his return, he will have no mother either. Given that he first lived centuries ago, he also will have no relatives.

On his second coming, there will be no suspicion as to

whether or not he is the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Those who falsely claim to be the Messiah (pbuh) will easily be exposed as liars, for people will have known them during their youth. People will have photos of them, and many more people will have known them from their childhood onward. So, it will be a great error on their part to make such a claim.

The Whole World Will Unite Behind the Prophet Jesus (pbuh)

The Qur'an and the hadiths reveal the nature of the necessary preparations, as do the great opinions of such scholars as Bediuzzaman Said Nursi. The most important phase is the ideological battle with the world's anti-religious movements. As Bediuzzaman says, all believers must unite in the ideological battle against atheist movements that guide people away from religious morality, such as Darwinism and materialism, and fully eradicate them. For this reason, they must use all of their resources to prepare before the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) war on irreligion begins. As Bediuzzaman says, the Prophet Jesus

(pbuh) will move with "the sword of heavenly revelation" at hand, meaning that he will be guided by Allah's revelations. Therefore, every choice he makes will be right, and he will do away with all irreligious systems.

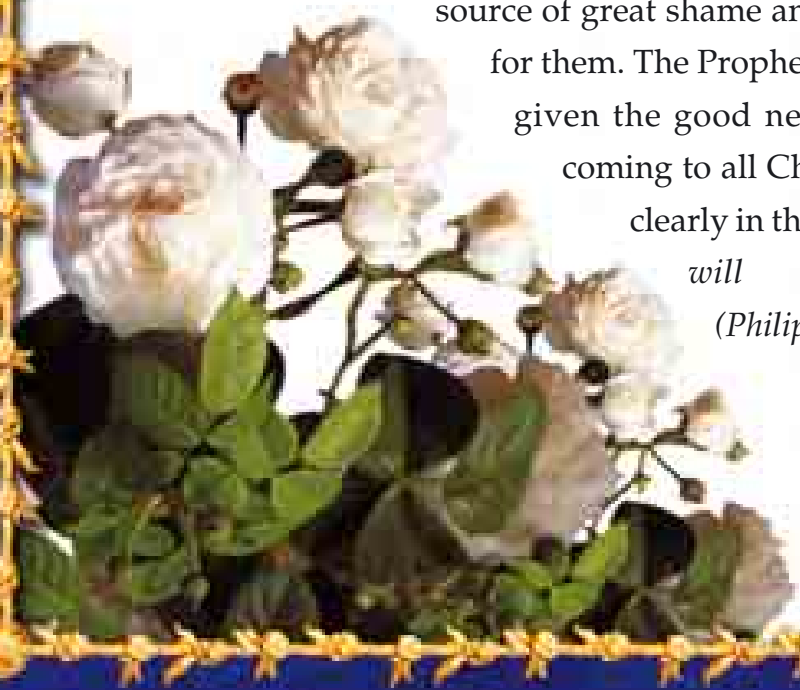
To begin to form this Christian-Muslim unity is a very good way to prepare for the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) arrival. However, first Christians must resolve their internal differences, unite behind the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) word, and become a rank as solid as a **"well-built wall"** (Surat as-Saff, 4). And, Muslims must remove their own internal sources of disparity and work to create unity and solidarity. All Muslims must move closer to Allah, cooperate to serve His religion even better, and achieve Islamic unity. Following the creation of these two unions, the pact between Muslims and Christians will form a massive power and represent a barrier to all evil movements that deny Allah. These preparations will form the basis for the alliance that will exist when the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) returns.

However, at the present time, no Christians or Muslims are making any serious preparations; rather, they seem to be very indif-

ferent to this valued guest's arrival.

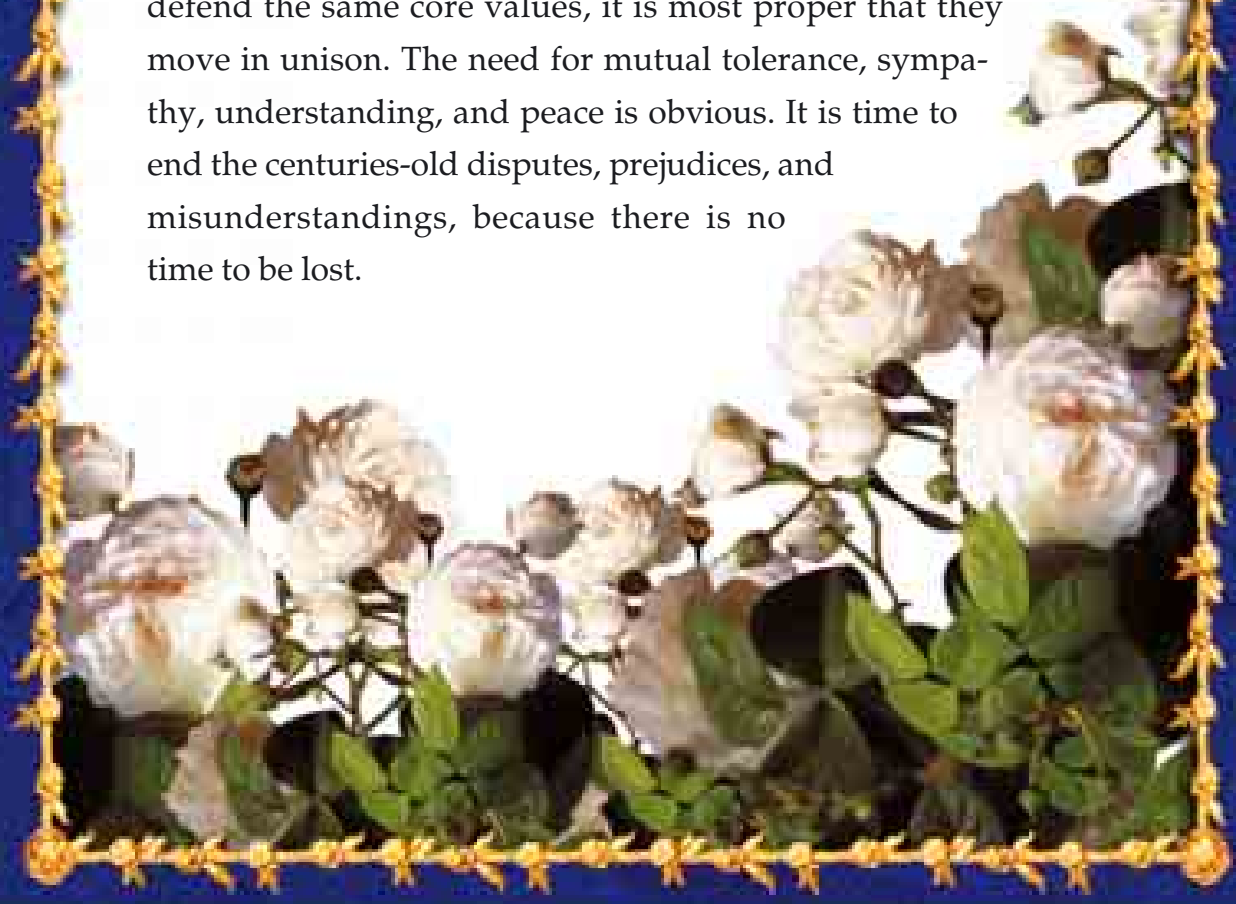
Such people will be ashamed when the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) comes, for then they will realize that it is too late to make amends.

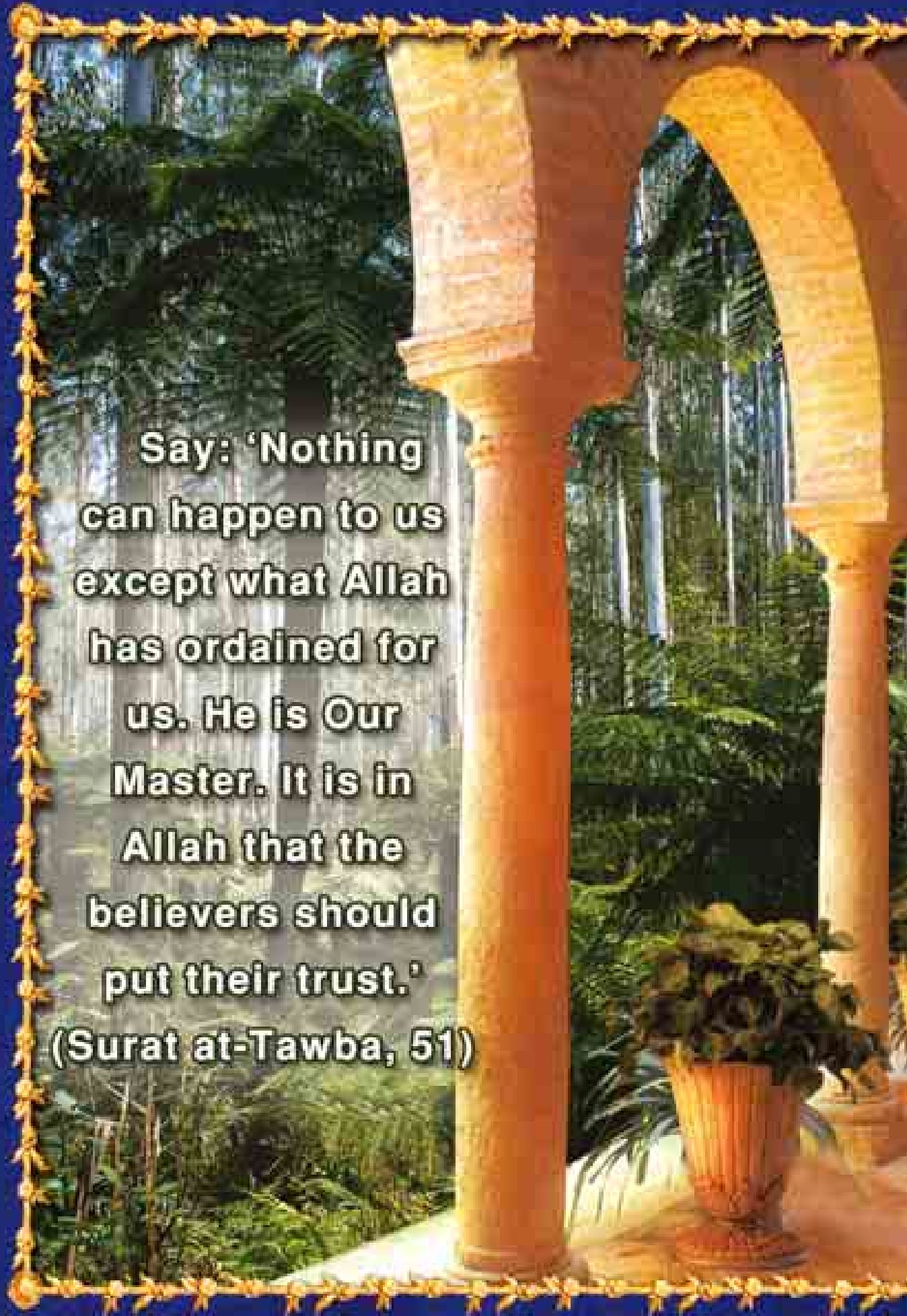
Another danger for Christans is that of coming under the influence of those who are disturbed by the prospect of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) arrival. People who do not prepare for this event, due to their pride, weak faith, ignorance, and lack of comprehension, might seek to influence conscientious Christians in a negative manner. Still, however, one wonders why those Christians who love the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and believe in the Bible pretend not to see this great truth. The time has come for all Christians to commit themselves to morality and the path of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). All Christians must show their sincerity and their wholehearted dedication to Allah, as defined in the Bible, and be tolerant, loving, peaceful, devoted, and work to spread Allah's religion. The Bible's clear statements on the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming must move the conscience of Christians, for contrary behavior or not making the necessary preparations could become a source of great shame and embarrassment for them. The Prophet Jesus (pbuh) has given the good news of his second coming to all Christians, and says clearly in the Gospel: *"I myself will come soon" (Philippians 2:24)*



Similarly, Muslims must also abide by Allah's morality, as revealed in the Qur'an and the hadiths, and work for the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) arrival with excitement, joy, and exuberance. Otherwise, how can they claim to believe in this coming event?

The Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming will not be a localized affair affecting just one area; rather, it will be a miraculous and metaphysical event powerful enough to affect the whole world, engender fundamental social and political change on a global scale, and cause people to unite behind the Prophet Jesus (pbuh). For this reason, all Christians and Muslims must work together and do their utmost to prepare the nicest welcome ever for him. For those Christians and Muslims who believe in the one and only Allah, strive to earn His good pleasure, have submitted to Him wholeheartedly, are devoted to Him and praise him, and defend the same core values, it is most proper that they move in unison. The need for mutual tolerance, sympathy, understanding, and peace is obvious. It is time to end the centuries-old disputes, prejudices, and misunderstandings, because there is no time to be lost.




Say: 'Nothing
can happen to us
except what Allah
has ordained for
us. He is Our
Master. It is in
Allah that the
believers should
put their trust.'
(Surat at-Tawba, 51)



In this book, we have shared the good news of the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming with everyone from the perspective of the Qur'an and the hadiths. We have seen Bediuzzaman's insightful views and read the Bible's clear statements. We also have called on everyone to make the necessary preparations. In short, we want to make it impossible for people to say that they would have prepared for this event if they had known that it was coming. We have stressed that the signs are clearly there for all to see, and that there can no longer be any doubt that the Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming is imminent. Our Lord says:

> **Allah has promised those of you who believe and do right actions that He will make them successors in the land, as He made those before them successors, and will firmly establish for them their religion with which He is pleased, and give them, in place of their fear, security. "They worship Me, not associating anything with Me." Any who do not believe after that, such people are deviators. (Surat an-Nur, 55)**

PASSAGES FROM THE GOSPEL AND THE TORAH THAT AGREE WITH THE QUR'AN

ALLAH IS ONE

Your Allah is One Allah. There is no god but Him…

(Surat al-Baqara, 163)

… "He is Allah, Absolute Oneness." (Surat al-Ikhlas, 1)

Gospel

... The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength… You are right in saying that God is One, and there is no other but Him. (Mark 12:29, 30, 32)

Torah

"There is no one like You, O Lord, and there is no god but You." (1 Chronicles 17:20)

You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides Him, there is no other. (Deuteronomy 4:35)

ALLAH IS THE LORD OF EVERYTHING

Your Allah is One: Lord of the heavens and Earth, and of everything between them; Lord of the Easts. (Surat as-Saffat, 4-5)

Gospel

"Sovereign Lord," they said, "You made Heaven and Earth and the sea, and everything in them." (Acts 4:24)

For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?.. Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? …The heavens are Yours, and Yours also the Earth; You founded the world and all that is in it. (Psalms 89: 6, 8, 11)

TO WORSHIP ONLY ALLAH

Say: "People of the Book! Come to a proposition that is the same for us and you—that we should worship none but Allah, not associate any partners with Him, and not take one another as lords besides Allah..." (Surah Al 'Imran, 64)

Gospel

It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." (Matthew 4:10)

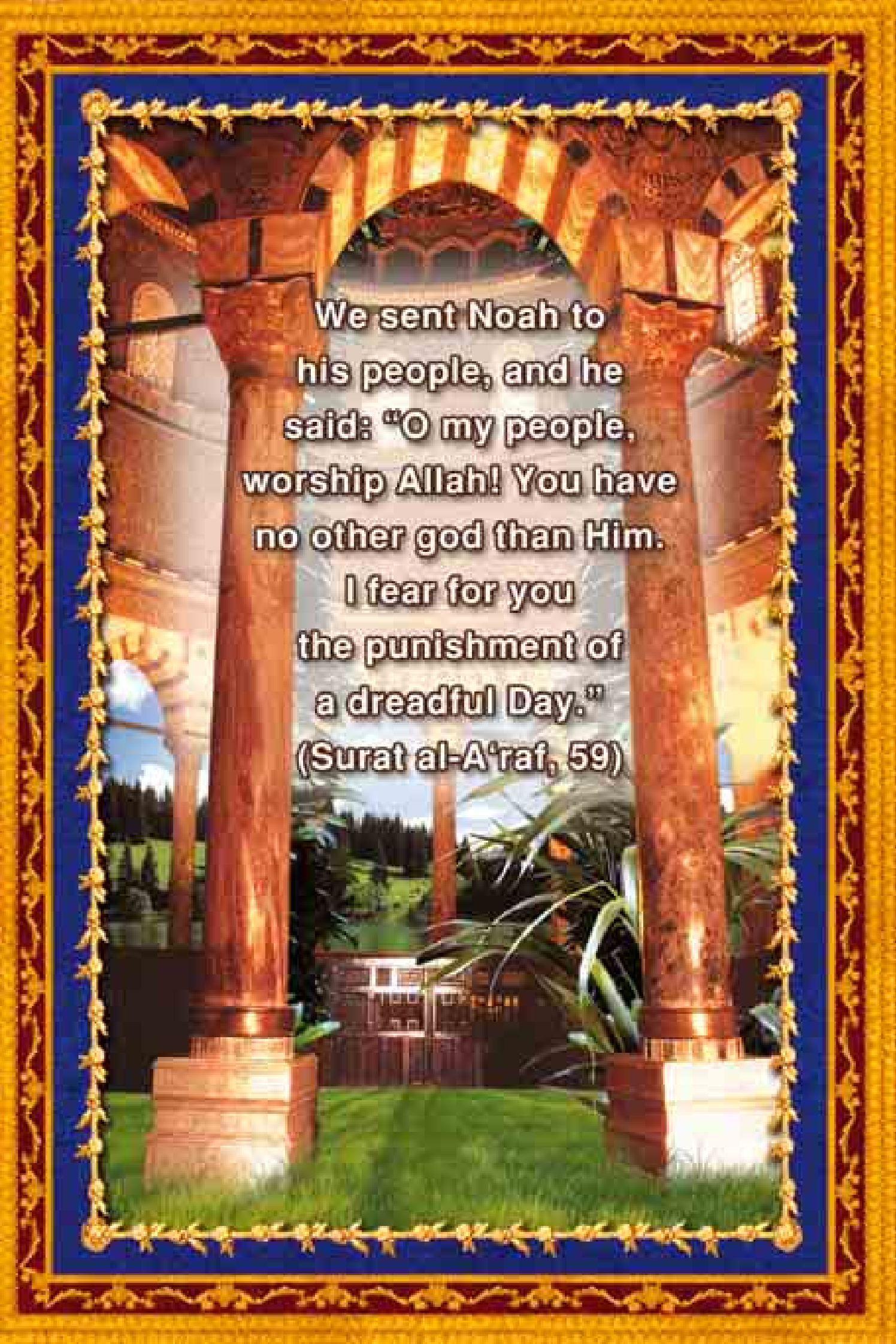
Torah

You shall fear the Lord your God; and Him shall you serve, and by His name shall you swear. You shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the peoples that are round about you; (Deuteronomy 6: 13-14)

TO EXALT ALLAH

… All might belongs to Allah. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. (Surah Yunus, 65)

[He is] the Possessor of the Throne, the All-Glorious. (Surat al-Buruj, 15)


We sent Noah to
his people, and he
said: "O my people,
worship Allah! You have
no other god than Him.
I fear for you
the punishment of
a dreadful Day."
(Surat al-A'raf, 59)

Glorify the Name of your Lord, the Most High. (Surat al-A'la, 1)

Gospel

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever...

(1 Timothy 1:17)

Torah

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in Heaven and Earth is Yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name. (1 Chronicles 29:11-13)

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength (1 Chronicles 16:28)

TO BE THANKFUL TO ALLAH

Praise be to Allah, to Whom everything in the heavens and everything in the earth belongs, and praise be to Him in the Hereafter... (Surah Saba', 1)

Torah

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. (Psalm 100:4)

Praise the Lord... (Psalm 113:1)

I thank and praise You... (Daniel 2:23)

We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks... (Psalm 75:1)

ALLAH'S NAMES

He is Allah—there is no god but Him. He is the Knower of the Unseen and the Visible. He is the All-Merciful, the Most Merciful. He is Allah—there is no god but Him. He is the King, the Most Pure, the Perfect Peace, the Trustworthy, the Safeguarder, the Almighty, the Compeller, the Supremely Great. Glory be to Allah above all they associate with Him. He is Allah—the Creator, the Maker, the Giver of Form. To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names. Everything in the heavens and earth glorifies Him. He is the Almighty, the All-Wise. (Surat al-Hashr, 22-24)

The kingdom of the heavens and Earth belongs to Him. He gives life and causes to die. He has power over all things. He is the First and the Last, the Outward and the Inward. He has knowledge of all things. It is He Who created the heavens and Earth in six days, then established Himself firmly on the Throne. He knows what goes into the earth and what comes out of it, what comes down from heaven and what goes up into it. He is with you wherever you are—Allah sees what you do. The kingdom of the heavens and Earth belongs to Him. All things return to Allah. He makes night merge into day and day merge into night. He knows what the heart contains. (Surat al-Hadid, 2-6)

Torah

The Maker of heaven and Earth, the sea, and everything in them—the Lord... (Psalm 146:6)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. (Psalm 145:3)

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all... (Psalm 145:8-9)

The Lord is righteous in all of His ways and loving toward all that He has made. (Psalm 145:17)

The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked He will destroy. (Psalm 145:20)

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8)

... Praise be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him. (Daniel 2:20-22)

Know that the Lord is God. It is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people. (Psalm 100:3)

ALLAH KEEPS HIS PROMISE

... Who is truer to his contract than Allah?... (Surat at-Tawba, 111)

Torah

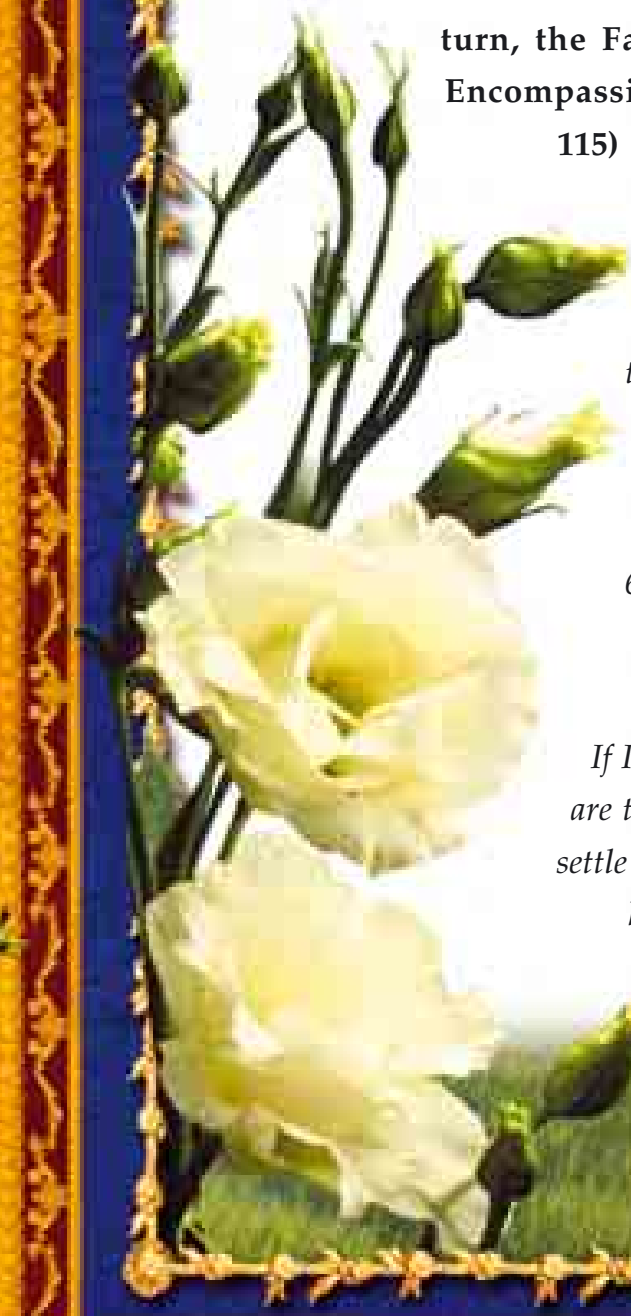
...You know with all your heart and

soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled... (Joshua 23:14)

ALLAH ENCOMPASSES EVERYTHING

Unquestionably, He encompasses everything. (Surah Fussilat, 54)

Both East and West belong to Allah, so wherever you turn, the Face of Allah is there. Allah is All-Encompassing, All-Knowing. (Surat al-Baqara, 115)



Gospel

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is before Allah? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows. (Luke 12: 6-7)

Torah

If I go up to the heavens, You are there…, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me... (Psalm 139:8-10)

ALLAH KNOWS EVERY CONCEALED SECRET

Everything in the heavens and everything on Earth, and everything in between them and everything under the ground, belongs to Him. Though you speak out loud, He knows your secrets and what is even more concealed. (Surah Ta Ha, 6-7)

You do not engage in any matter or recite any of the Qur'an or do any action without Our witnessing you while you are occupied with it. Not even the smallest speck eludes your Lord, either on Earth or in Heaven. Nor is there anything smaller than that, or larger, which is not in a Clear Book. (Surah Yunus, 61)

Gospel

For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. (Luke 8: 17)

Torah

You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You know it completely, O Lord. (Psalm 139:2-4)

THOSE WHO ABANDON ALLAH FOR IDOLS

He [Abraham] said: "You have adopted idols apart from Allah as tokens of mutual affection in this world. But then on the Day of Resurrection you will reject one another and curse one another. The Fire will be your shelter. You will have no helpers." (Surat al-'Ankabut, 25)

Your Lord creates and chooses whatever He wills. The choice is not theirs. Glory be to Allah! He is exalted above anything they associate with Him! (Surat al-Qasas, 68)

Those you call on besides Allah are servants just like yourselves. Call on them and let them respond to you if you are telling the truth. (Surat al-A'raf, 194)

Gospel

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—Who is forever praised... (Romans 1:25)

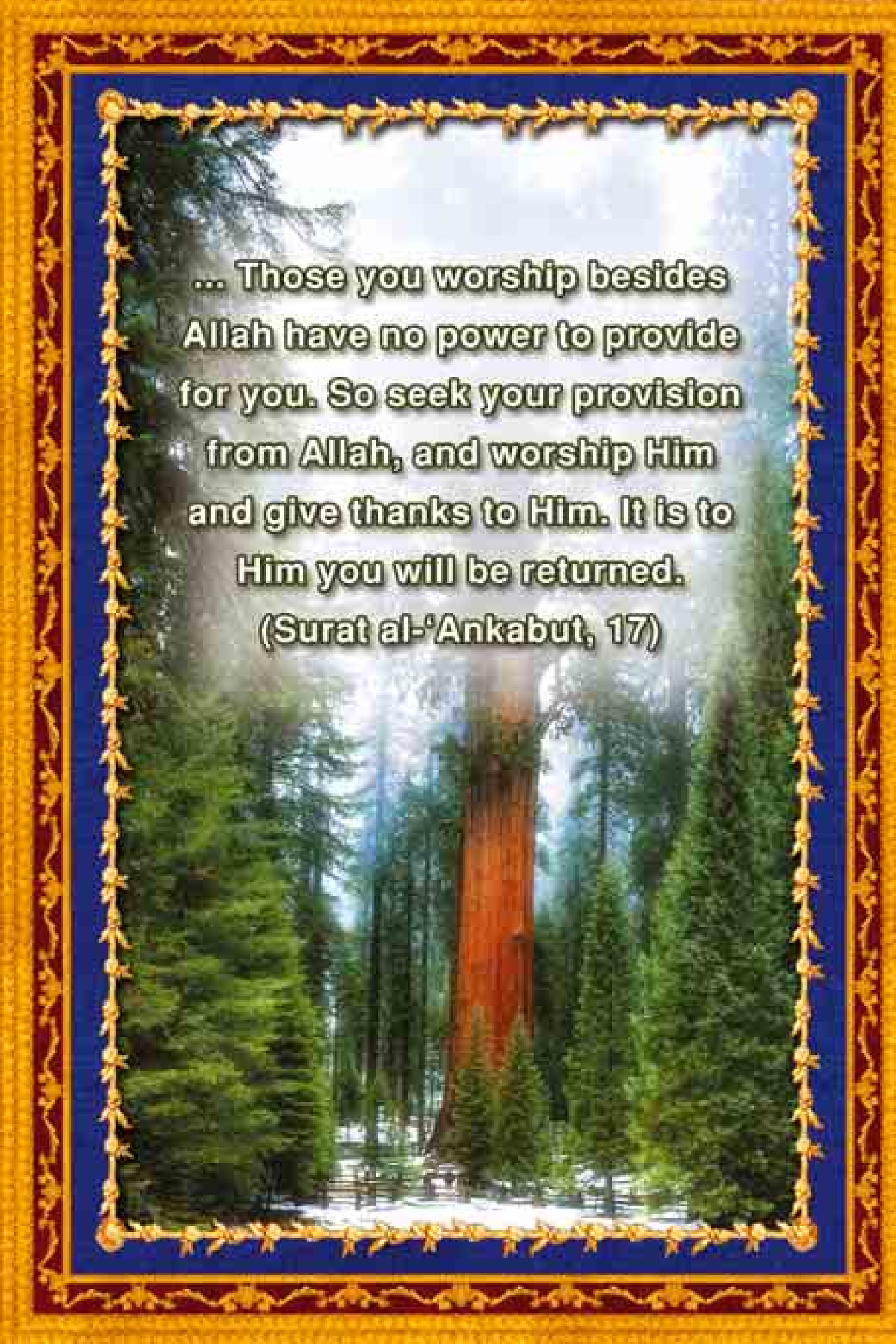
Torah

But you have forsaken Me and served other deities.... Go and cry out to the deities you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!" (Judges 10:13-14)

Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals [idols]. They forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, Who had brought them out of Egypt. ... [T]hey forsook Him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths [other deities]. (Judges 2:11-13)

SEEKING ALLAH'S GOOD PLEASURE, NOT PEOPLE'S

Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His mir-


... Those you worship besides
Allah have no power to provide
for you. So seek your provision
from Allah, and worship Him
and give thanks to Him. It is to
Him you will be returned.
(Surat al-'Ankabut, 17)

acles, and the judgments he pronounced…He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. (Psalms 105: 1-7)

They swear to you by Allah in order to please you, but it would be more fitting for them to please Allah and His Messenger if they are believers. (Surat at-Tawba, 62)

Gospel

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, Who tests our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

SUBMITTING TO ALLAH'S REVELATION

Follow the best that has been sent down to you from your Lord before the punishment comes upon you suddenly, when you are not expecting it. (Surat az-Zumar, 55)

Follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord. Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Ahzab, 2)

Gospel

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. (James 1:21)

Torah

Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds, but would keep His commands. (Psalm 78:7)

He follows my decrees and faithfully keeps my laws. That man is righteous... (Ezekiel 18:9)

TURNING TO ALLAH

Remember the Name of your Lord, and devote yourself to Him completely. (Surat al-Muzzammil, 8)

[People of intelligence are] those who are steadfast in seeking the face of their Lord... (Surat ar-Ra'd, 22)

Gospel

But godliness with contentment is great gain. (Timothy 6: 6)

Torah

Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always! (1 Chronicles 16:11)

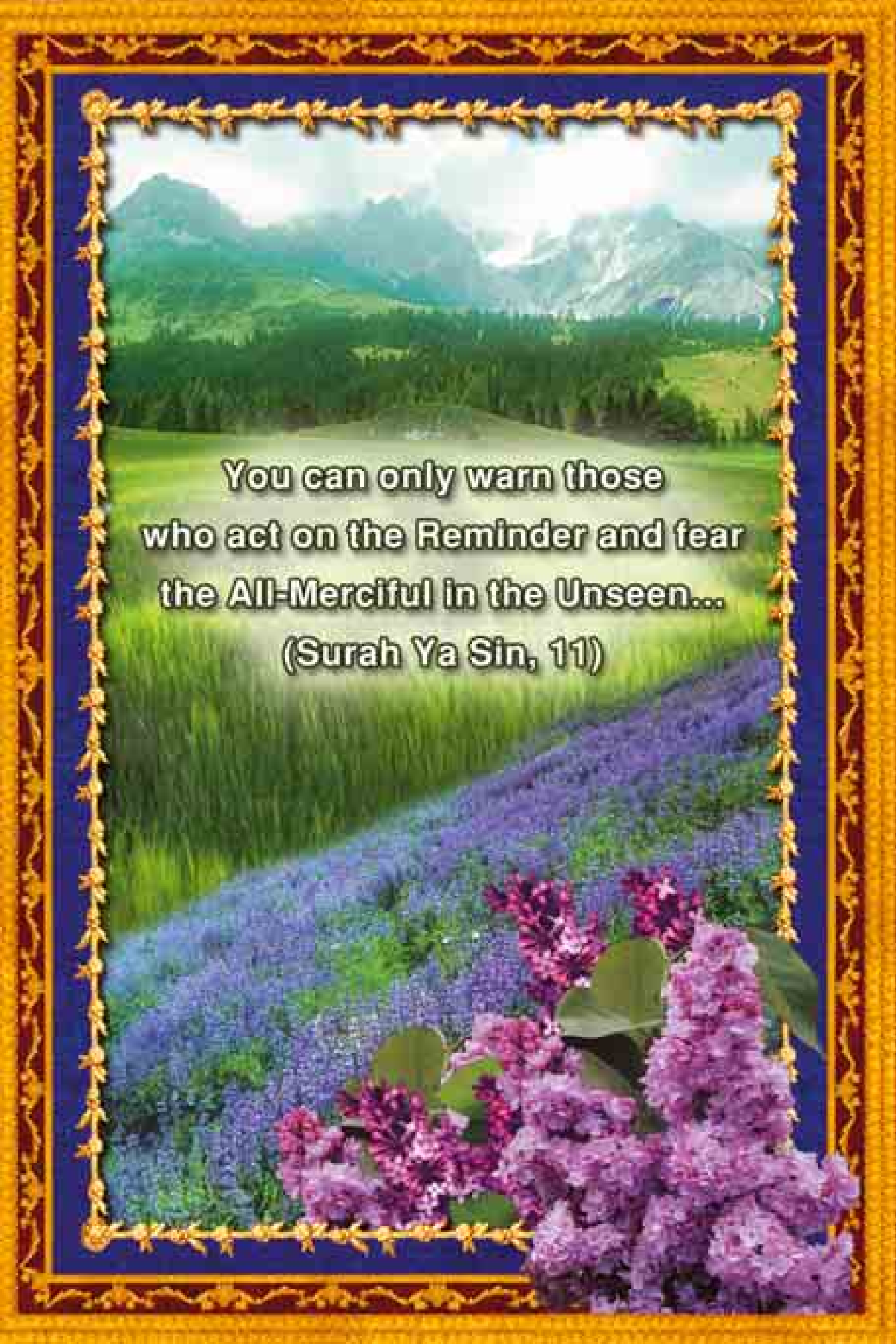
TO HEAR AND PRACTICE

Those who listen well to what is said and follow the best of it, they are the ones whom Allah has guided, they are the people of intelligence. (Surat az-Zumar, 18)

The reply of the believers when they are summoned to Allah and His Messenger, so that he can judge between them, is to say: "We hear and we obey." They are ones who are successful. (Surat an-Nur, 51)

Gospel

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's Sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Romans 2:13)


You can only warn those
who act on the Reminder and fear
the All-Merciful in the Unseen...
(Surah Ya Sin, 11)

Torah

Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds, but would keep His commands. (Psalm 78:7)

ALLAH CREATES EVERYTHING WITH A DESTINY

We have created all things in predestination. Our command is only one word, like the blinking of an eye. (Surat al-Qamar, 49-50)

Have they not reflected within themselves? Allah did not create the heavens and Earth, and everything between them, except with truth and for a fixed term. Yet many people reject the meeting with their Lord. (Surat ar-Rum, 8)

Torah

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it... (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

EVERYTHING IS RECORDED IN A BOOK

You do not engage in any matter, recite any of the Qur'an, or do any action without Our witnessing you while you are occupied with it. Not even the smallest speck eludes your Lord, either on Earth or in Heaven. Nor is there anything smaller than that, or larger, which is not in a Clear Book. (Surah Yunus, 61)

Torah

Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:16)

NOT KILLING SOMEONE WRONGFULLY

... [They] do not kill anyone Allah has made inviolate, except with the right to do so, and do not fornicate; anyone who does that will receive an evil punishment. (Surat al-Furqan, 68)

Gospel

... "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother." (Mark 10:19)

Torah

You shall not kill. (Exodus 20:13)

O city that brings on herself doom by shedding blood in her midst and defiles herself by making idols, you have become guilty because of the blood you have shed. (Ezekiel 22:3-4)

... There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Because of this the land mourns... (Hosea 4:1-3)

FORNICATION

And do not go near to fornication. It is an indecent act, an evil way. (Surat al-Isra', 32)

Gospel

He [Jesus] went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All of these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'" (Mark 7:20-23)

Torah

You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

AVOIDING THEFT

O Prophet! When believing women come to you pledging allegiance to you on the grounds that they will not associate anything with Allah, steal, fornicate, kill their children, or give a false ascription of paternity—making up lies about their bodies—or disobey you in respect of anything right, then accept their pledge and ask forgiveness for them. Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Surat al-Mumtahana, 12)

Gospel

And Jesus said, "That which come out of the man, that defile the man.


Allah commands you to
return to their owners the things
you hold on trust and, when you
judge between people, to judge
with justice. How excellent is what
Allah exhorts you to do! Allah
is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.
(Surat an-Nisa', 58)

For from within, out of the of men, proceed evil thoughts, , fornications, murders. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

All these things come from within, and the man. (Mark 7:20-23)

Torah

"Do not steal... Do not deceive one another." (Leviticus 19:11)

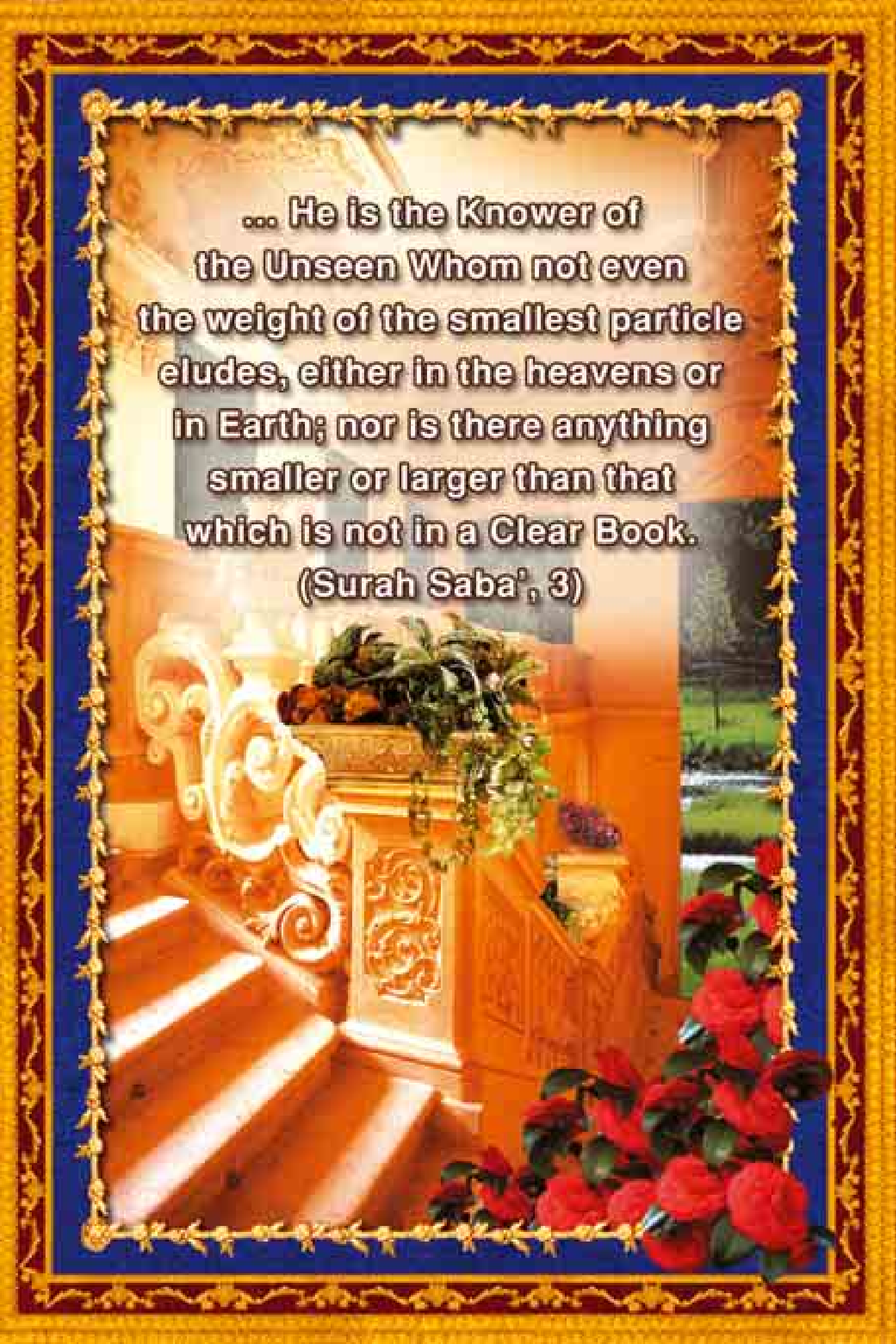
NOT BEARING FALSE WITNESS

[Believers are] those who do not bear false witness and who, when they pass by worthless talk, pass by with dignity. (Surat al-Furqan, 72)

O you who believe! Be upholders of justice, bearing witness for Allah alone, even against yourselves or your parents and relatives... (Surat an-Nisa', 135)

Gospel

There is none but one, that is, God: but if you will enter into , keep the . He said unto him. "Which?" Jesus said, "You shall do no , You shall not commit , You shall not , You shall not bear witness, your father and your mother: and, You shall your as yourself." The young man said unto him, "All these things have I kept from my youth up": what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, "If you will be , go and sell that you have, and to the , and you shall have in heaven: and come and me." (Matthew 19: 17-21)


... He is the Knower of
the Unseen Whom not even
the weight of the smallest particle
eludes, either in the heavens or
in Earth; nor is there anything
smaller or larger than that
which is not in a Clear Book.
(Surah Saba', 3)

Torah

Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness. Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd (Exodus 23:1-3)

Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—The Lord detests them both. (Proverbs 17:15)

Now let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery. (2 Chronicles 19:7)

NOT TO WRONG PEOPLE

Give relatives their due, and the poor and travellers. That is best for those who seek the pleasure of Allah. They are the ones who are successful. (Surat ar-Rum, 38)

Give your relatives their due, and the very poor and travellers... (Surat al-Isra', 26)

Gospel

Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. (Luke 6:30-33)

Torah

Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind,

but fear your God. I am the Lord. Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. (Leviticus 19:14-15)

He [a righteous man] does not oppress anyone, but returns what he took in pledge for a loan. He does not commit robbery, but gives his food to the hungry and provides clothing for the naked. He does not lend at usury. He withholds his hand from doing wrong, and judges fairly between man and man. (Ezekiel 18:7-8)

RESPECTING PARENTS

Your Lord has decreed that you should worship none but Him and that you should show kindness to your parents. Whether one or both of them reach old age with you, do not say "Ugh!" to them out of irritation and do not be harsh with them, but speak to them with gentleness and generosity. Take them under your wing, out of mercy, with due humility and say: "Lord, show mercy to them as they did in looking after me when I was small." (Surat al-Isra', 23-24)

Gospel

Honor your father and mother. (Luke 18:20; Matthew 19:19)



Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor your father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with you, and you may live long on the Earth. (Ephesians 6: 1-3)

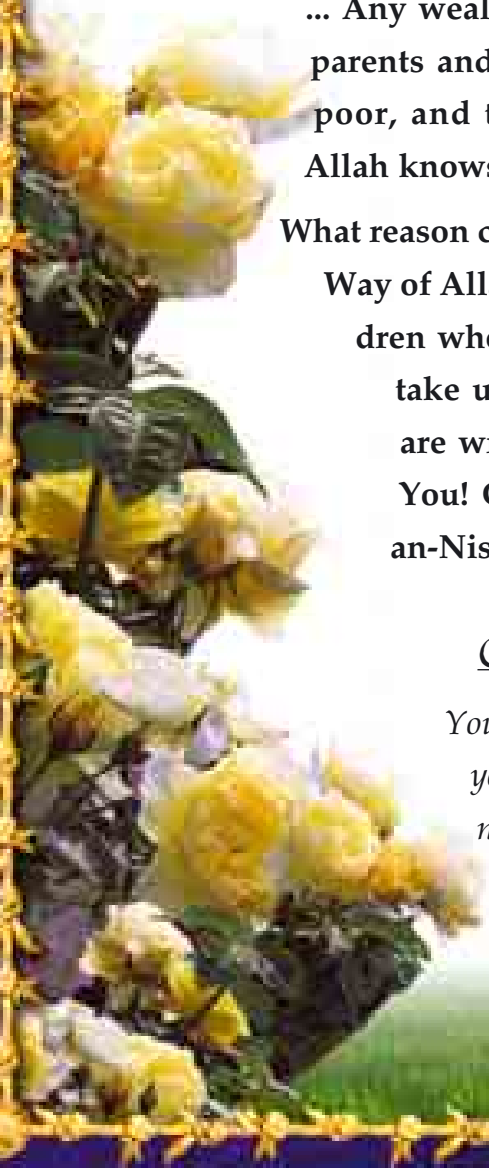
Torah

Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12)

PROTECTING THE NEEDY

... Any wealth you give away should go to your parents and relatives, and to orphans, the very poor, and travellers. Whatever good you do, Allah knows it. (Surat al-Baqara, 215)

What reason could you have for not fighting in the Way of Allah—for those men, women, and children who are oppressed and say: "Our Lord, take us out of this city whose inhabitants are wrongdoers! Give us a protector from You! Give us a helper from You!"? (Surat an-Nisa', 75)



Gospel:

You shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: you shall not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

You shall not go up
and down as a talebearer
among your people: neither shall you stand against the blood of your neighbor.

You shall surely rebuke your neighbor...

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself...(Leviticus 19: 15-18)

Torah

Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt. Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan. If you do and they cry out to Me, I will certainly hear their cry. (Exodus 22:21-23)

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 82:3-4)

Is not your wickedness great? Are not your sins endless? You demanded security from your brothers for no reason; you stripped men of their clothing, leaving them naked. You gave no water to the weary and you withheld food from the hungry. But as for the mighty man, he had the earth;And the honorable man, he dwelt in it. And you sent widows away empty-handed and broke the strength of the fatherless. (Job 22:5-9)



TO GIVE AWAY FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH

You will not attain true goodness until you give of what you love. Whatever you give away, Allah knows it. (Surah Al 'Imran, 92)

It [the charity] is for the poor who are held back in the Way of Allah, unable to travel in the land. The ignorant consider them rich because of their reticence. You will know them by their mark. They do not ask from people insistently. Whatever good you give away, Allah knows it. (Surat al-Baqara, 273)

They will ask you what they should give away. Say: "Whatever is surplus to your needs." (Surat al-Baqara, 219)

Gospel

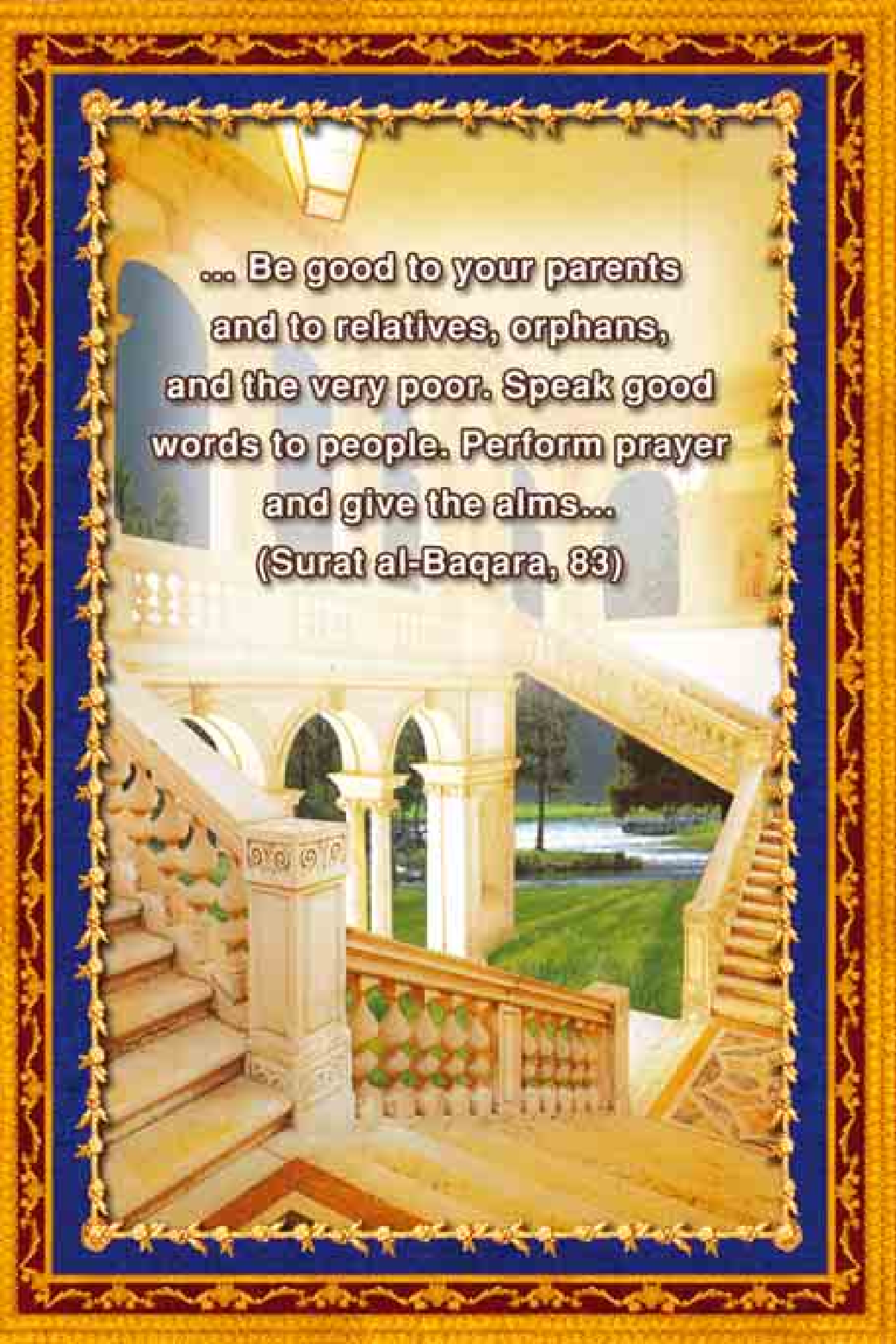
...The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same. (Luke 3:11)

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the Apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. (Acts 4:34-35)

Torah

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shall you gather the gleaning of your harvest: ***you shall leave them for the poor, and for the sojourner:....*** *(Leviticus, 23:22)*


... Be good to your parents
and to relatives, orphans,
and the very poor. Speak good
words to people. Perform prayer
and give the alms...
(Surat al-Baqara, 83)

*And if your brother be waxed poor, and his hand fail with you; then you shall **uphold** him: as a stranger and a sojourner shall he live with you. (Leviticus, 25:35)*

NOT TO BRAG ABOUT SPENDING FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH

And [We have prepared a humiliating punishment] also for those who spend their wealth to show off to people... (Surat an-Nisa', 38)

O you who believe! Do not nullify your charity by demands for gratitude or insulting words, like him who spends his wealth, showing off to people and not believing in Allah and the Last Day... (Surat al-Baqara, 264)

If you make your charity public, that is good. But if you conceal it and give it to the poor that is better for you... (Surat al-Baqara, 271)

Gospel

Be careful not to do your "acts of righteousness" before men, to be seen by them. (Matthew 6:1)

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth: They have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret... (Matthew 6:2-4)

THE REWARD FOR DOING GOOD

Perform prayer and give the alms. Any good you send ahead for yourselves, you will find with Allah. Certainly Allah sees what you do. (Surat al-Baqara, 110)

Gospel

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

Torah

But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right,

And has not eaten upon the mountains, neither has lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel… And has not oppressed any, but has restored to the debtor his pledge, has spoiled none by violence, has given his bread to the hungry, and has covered the naked with a garment;

He that has not given forth upon usury, neither has taken any increase, that has withdrawn his hand from iniquity, has executed true judgment between man and man,

Has walked in my statutes, and has kept my judgments, to deal truly. (Ezekiel 18: 5-9)

ALLAH SUSTAINS

There is no creature on Earth that is not dependent upon Allah for its provision. He knows where it lives and

where it dies. They are all in a Clear Book. (Surah Hud, 6)

Allah expands provision to anyone He wills and restricts it. They rejoice in the life of this world. Yet the life of this world, compared to the Hereafter, is only fleeting enjoyment. (Surat ar-Ra'd, 26)

Gospel

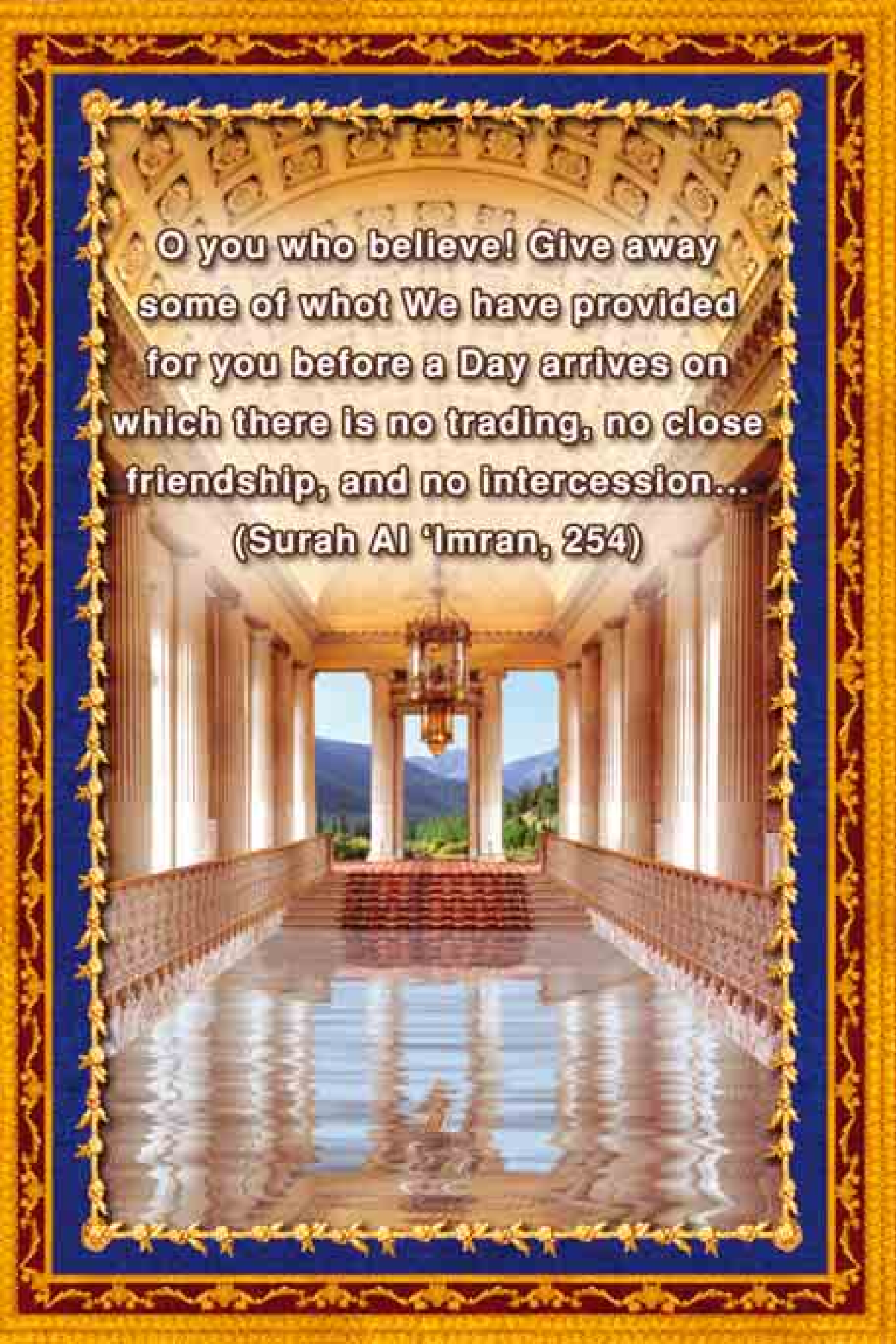
Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns... Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?... So do not worry, asking: "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things... But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:25-27, 31-33)

Torah

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all that He has made. (Psalm 145: 15-17)

TO REFRAIN FROM VANITY IN WORSHIP

So woe to those who perform prayer, and are forgetful of their prayer, those who show off (Surat al-Ma'un, 4-6)


O you who believe! Give away
some of whot We have provided
for you before a Day arrives on
which there is no trading, no close
friendship, and no intercession...
(Surah Al 'Imran, 254)

Gospel

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth: They have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray... (Matthew 6:5-6)

As he taught, Jesus said: "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and, for a show, make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." (Mark 12:38-40)

Torah

.... You are always on their lips but far from their hearts. (Jeremiah 12:2)

SINCERE PRAYER

Call on your Lord humbly and secretly. He does not love those who overstep the limits [that He has established]. (Surat al-A'raf, 55)

Remember your Lord in yourself humbly and fearfully, without loudness of voice, morning and evening. Do not be one of the unaware. (Surat al-A'raf, 205)

He is the Living—there is no god but Him—so call on Him, making your religion sincerely His. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds. (Surah Ghafir, 65)

O you who believe! Seek help in steadfastness and prayer.

Allah is with the steadfast. (Surat al-Baqara, 153)

"Our Lord, do not take us to task if we forget or make a mistake! Our Lord, do not place on us a load like the one You placed on those before us! Our Lord, do not place on us a load we have not the strength to bear! And pardon us, forgive us, and have mercy on us. You are our Master, so help us against the unbelievers." (Surat al-Baqara, 286)

Gospel

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

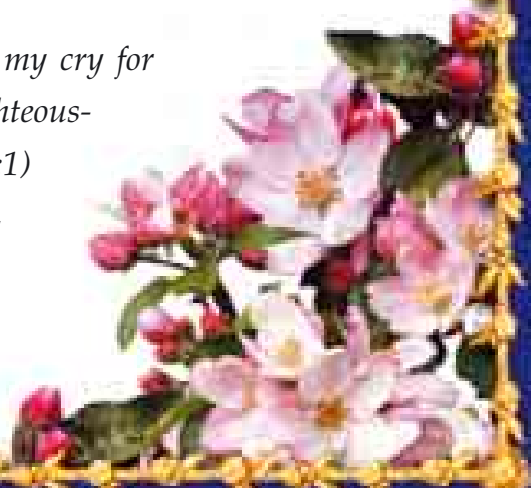
And [we] will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:4)

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them ... This, then, is how you should pray: "... Hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6:7-13)

Torah

O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in Your faithfulness and righteousness, come to my relief. (Psalm 143:1)

I spread out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a parched land. Answer me quickly... Let the morning bring me word of Your



unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God… Lead me on level ground. … Preserve my life; in Your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. In Your unfailing love, silence my enemies... (Psalm 143:6-12)

ALLAH RESPONDS TO PRAYERS

If My servants ask you about Me, I am near. I answer the call of the caller when he calls on Me. They should therefore respond to Me and believe in Me so that hopefully they will be rightly guided. (Surat al-Baqara, 186)

He Who responds to the oppressed when they call on Him and removes their distress, and has appointed you as inheritors of the land. Is there another god besides Allah? How little you pay heed! (Surat an-Naml, 62)

Gospel

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and the door will be opened to him who knocks. (Matthew 7:7-8)

Therefore I tell you: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24)

Torah

In your distress you called and I rescued you. I answered you out of a thundercloud. (Psalm 81:7)

THE FEAR OF ALLAH

[Prophets are] those who conveyed Allah's Message and had fear of Him, fearing no one except Allah. Allah suffices as a Reckoner. (Surat al-Ahzab, 39)

[People of intelligence are] those who join what Allah has commanded to be joined and are afraid of their Lord and fear an evil Reckoning. (Surat ar-Ra'd, 21)

Their sides eschew their beds as they call on their Lord in fear and ardent hope. And they give of what We have provided for them. (Surat as-Sajda, 16)

Gospel

Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (Peter 2:17)

To preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people...Saying with a loud voice, « Fear God, and give glory to him » (Revelation 14 : 6-7)

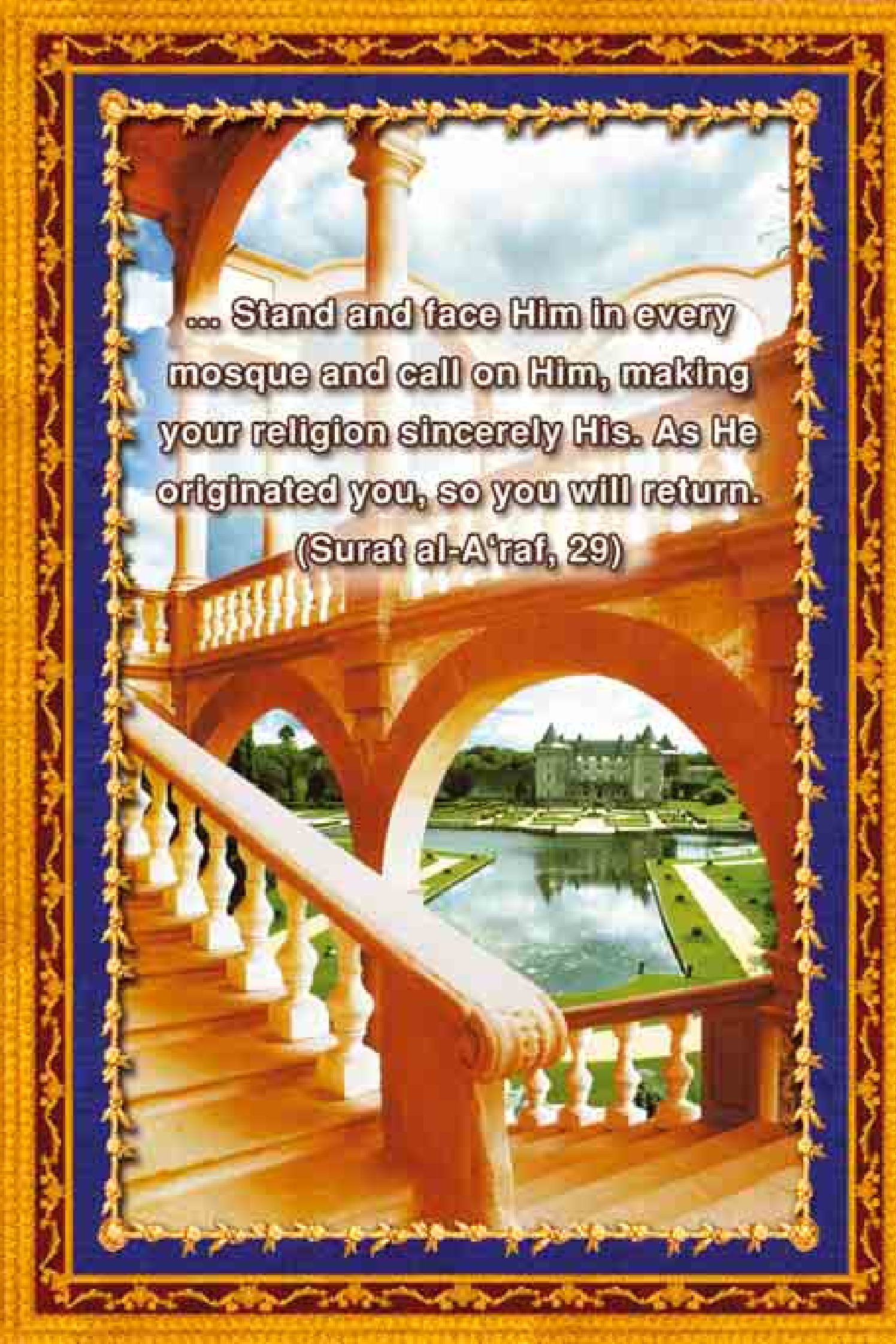
Torah

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God. (Job 1:1)

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. (Psalm 19:9-10)

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2:11)

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways. (Psalm 128:1)


... Stand and face Him in every mosque and call on Him, making your religion sincerely His. As He originated you, so you will return.
(Surat al-A'raf, 29)

ALLAH GIVES INSIGHT TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

O you who believe! If you have fear of Allah, He will give you a criterion [by which to judge between right and wrong] and erase your bad actions from you and forgive you. Allah's favor is indeed immense. (Surat al-Anfal, 29)

Torah

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise. (Psalm 111:10)

NOT HOARDING WEALTH

... As for those who hoard up gold and silver and do not spend it in the Way of Allah, give them the news of a painful punishment. On the Day it is heated up in the fire of Hell, and their foreheads, sides, and backs are branded with it: "This is what you hoarded for yourselves, so taste what you were hoarding!" (Surat at-Tawba, 34-35)

[He] who has amassed wealth and hoarded it! He thinks his wealth will make him live for ever. No indeed! He will be flung into the Shatterer. And what will convey to you what the Shatterer is? The kindled Fire of Allah reaching right into the heart. It is sealed in above them in towering columns. (Surat al-Humaza, 2-9)

Allah expands provision to anyone He wills and restricts it. They rejoice in the life of this world. Yet the life of this world, compared to the Hereafter, is only fleeting enjoyment. (Surat ar-Ra'd, 26)

Those who are tight-fisted with the bounty Allah has given them should not suppose that that is better for them. No indeed, it is worse for them! What they were tight-fisted with will be hung around their necks on the Day of Resurrection. Allah is the inheritor of the heavens and Earth, and Allah is aware of what you do. (Surah Al-'Imran, 180)

Gospel

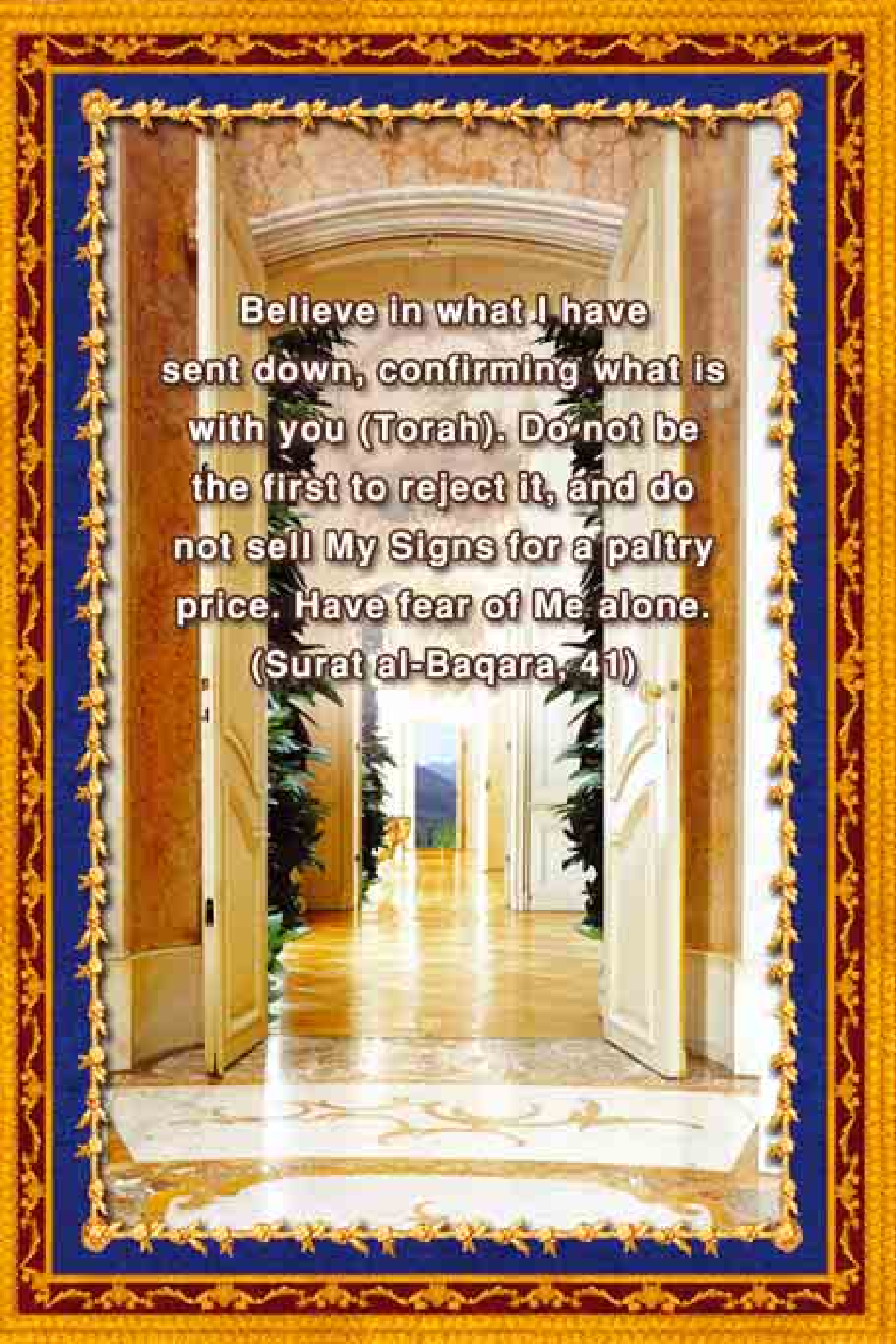
[Now listen, you rich people!] Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the Last Days. (James 5:3)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on Earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, Who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. (1 Timothy 6:17)

Torah

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.


Believe in what I have
sent down, confirming what is
with you (Torah). Do not be
the first to reject it, and do
not sell My Signs for a paltry
price. Have fear of Me alone.
(Surat al-Baqara, 41)

As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath. (Zephaniah 1:18)

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. (Proverbs 11:3-4)

This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, Who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

SHUNNING AVARICE

Allah has made a metaphor for them of a man owned by several partners in dispute with one another and another man wholly owned by a single man. Are they the same? Praise be to Allah! The fact is that most of them do not know. (Surat az-Zumar, 29)

To mankind the love of worldly appetites is painted in glowing colors: women and children, and heaped-up mounds of gold and silver, and horses with fine markings, and livestock and fertile farmland. All of that is merely the enjoyment of the life of this world. The best homecoming is in the presence of Allah. (Surah Al 'Imran, 14)

Gospel

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:24)

For the love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of Allah, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. (1 Timothy 6:10-11)

Torah

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? (Ecclesiastes 5: 10-11)

TO BE HUMBLE

O you who believe! If any of you renounce your religion, Allah will bring forward a people whom He loves and who love Him, humble to the believers, fierce to the unbelievers, who strive in the Way of Allah and do not fear the blame of any censurer. That is the unbounded favor of Allah, which He gives to whoever He wills. Allah is Boundless, All-Knowing. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 54)

...Your Allah is One God, so submit to Him. Give good news to the humble-hearted. (Surat al-Hajj, 34)

Gospel

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)

But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)

Torah

Hear and pay attention, do not be arrogant, for the Lord has spoken. (Jeremiah 13:15)

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility... (Zephaniah 2:3)

ARROGANCE ON EARTH LEADS TO DEBASEMENT IN ALLAH'S PRESENCE

He [Allah] said: "Descend from Heaven [O Diabolis (satan)]. It is not for you to be arrogant in it. So get out! You are one of the abased." (Surat al-A'raf, 13)

Do not strut arrogantly about the land. You will certainly never split the land apart nor will you ever rival the mountains in height. (Surat al-'Isra, 37)

Do not avert your face from people out of haughtiness, and do not strut about arrogantly on the land. Allah does not love anyone who is vain or boastful. (Surah Luqman, 18)

Gospel

The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts

himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Matthew 23:11-12)

Torah

To the arrogant I say: "Boast no more," and to the wicked: "Do not lift up your horns. Do not lift your horns against Heaven; do not speak with outstretched neck." No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man. But it is God Who judges: He brings one down, He exalts another. (Psalm 75:4-7)

SHUNNING WORTHLESS TALK

When they [believers] hear worthless talk, they turn away from it and say: "We have our actions and you have your actions. Peace be upon you. We do not desire the company of the ignorant." (Surat al-Qasas, 55)

[Believers are] those who do not bear false witness and who, when they pass by worthless talk, pass by with dignity. (Surat al-Furqan, 72)

Gospel

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. (1 Timothy 1:5-6)

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, arguments, and quarrels about the Law, because these are unprofitable and useless. (Titus 3:9)

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. (2 Timothy 2:16)

Torah

Words from a wise man's mouth are gracious, but a fool is consumed by his own lips. At the beginning his words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness—and the fool multiplies words. (Ecclesiastes 10:12-14)

AVOIDING ARGUMENTS

When you see people engrossed in mockery of Our Signs, turn from them until they start to talk of other things... (Surat al-An'am, 68)

... More than anything else, man is argumentative! (Surat al-Kahf, 54)

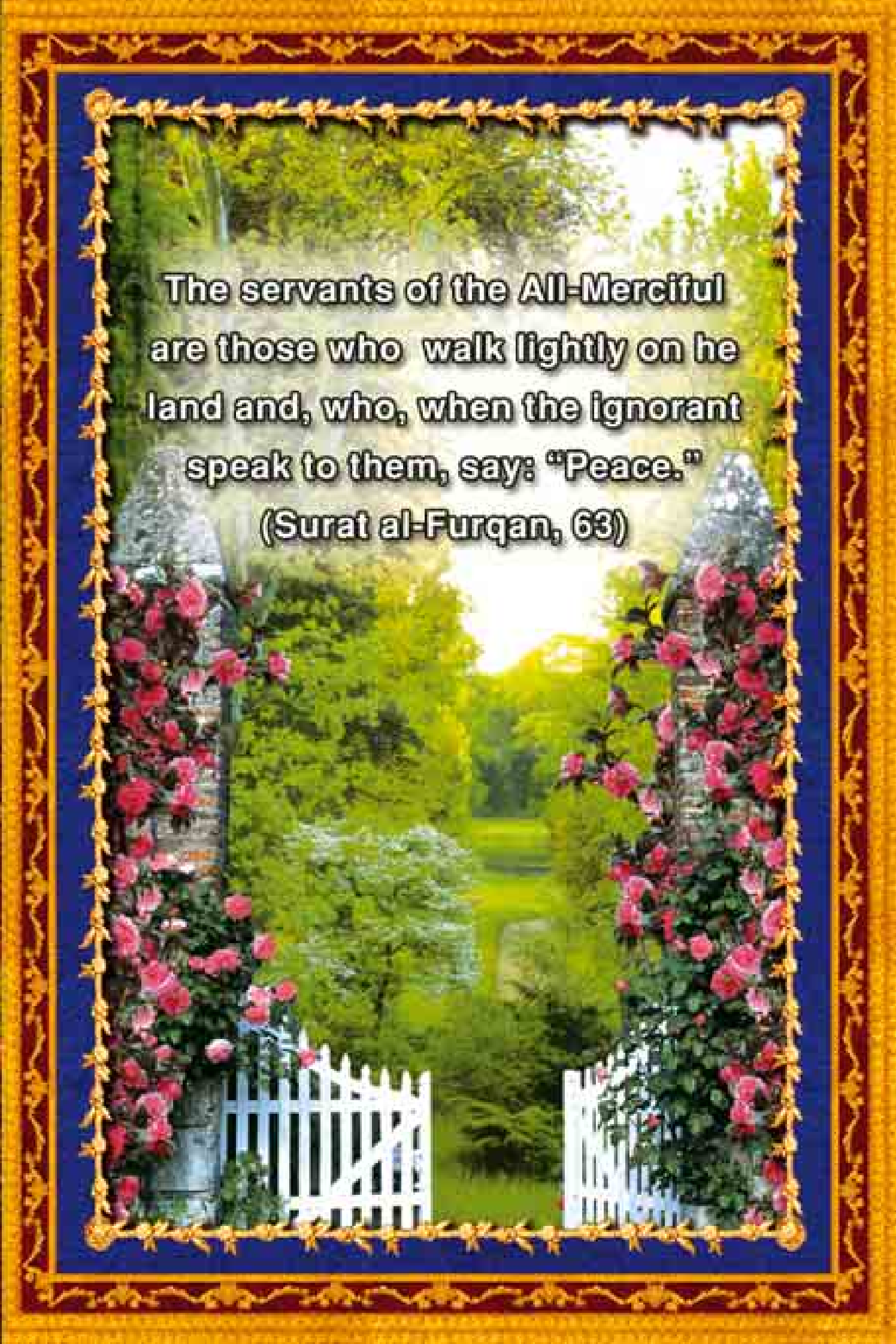
They retort: "Who is better then, our deities or him?" They only say this to you for argument's sake. They are indeed a disputatious people. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 58)

Gospel

Do not have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. (2 Timothy 2:23)

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, arguments, and quarrels about the Law, because these are unprofitable and useless. (Titus 3:9)

And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 2:24-25)


The servants of the All-Merciful
are those who walk lightly on he
land and, who, when the ignorant
speak to them, say: "Peace."
(Surat al-Furqan, 63)

CALLING ON PEOPLE PATIENTLY AND GENTLY

Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair admonition, and argue with them in the kindest way. Your Lord knows best who is misguided from His way. And He knows best who are guided. (Surat an-Nahl, 125)

It is a mercy from Allah that you [O Muhammad] were gentle with them. If you had been rough or hard of heart, they would have scattered from around you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult with them about the matter. Then when you have reached a firm decision, put your trust in Allah. Allah loves those who put their trust in Him. (Surah Al 'Imran, 159)

So remind them [O Muhammad]! You are only a reminder. You are not in control of them. (Surat al-Ghashiyya, 21-22)

Gospel

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. (1 Timothy 5:1-2)



Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. (Titus 3:1-2)

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you . . . should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)

Torah

By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue break the bone. (Proverbs 25:15)

The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increase learning. (Proverbs 16: 21)

TO REPEL A BAD ACTION WITH SOMETHING BETTER

A good action and a bad action are not the same. Repel the bad with something better and, if there is enmity between you and someone else, he will be like a bosom friend. (Surah Fussilat, 34)



[People of intelligence are] those who are steadfast in seeking the face of their Lord, perform prayer and give from the provision We have given them, secretly and openly, and stave off evil with good, it is they who will have the Ultimate Abode. (Surat ar-Ra'd, 22)

Gospel

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:9)

... Warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15)

Torah

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink: For you shall heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward you. (Proverbs 25: 21-22)

TO BE COMPASSIONATE AND FORGIVING

Those of you possessing affluence and ample wealth should not make oaths that they will not give to their relatives, the very poor, and those who have migrated in the way of Allah. They should rather pardon and overlook. Would you not love Allah to

forgive you? Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Surat an-Nur, 22)

[The people who guard against evil are] those who give in times of both ease and hardship, those who control their rage and pardon other people—Allah loves the good-doers. (Surah Al 'Imran, 134)

Say to My servants that they should only say the best. Satan wants to stir up trouble between them. Satan is an outright enemy to man. (Surat al-'Isra, 53)

Gospel

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:12-13)

Torah

A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man conceals shame. (Proverbs 12:16)

A quick-tempered man does foolish things... (Proverbs 14:17)

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly. (Proverbs 14:29)

TO PRACTICE AS ONE PREACHES

Do you order people to devoutness and forget yourselves, when you recite the Book? Will you not use your intellect? (Surat al-Baqara, 44)

Gospel

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother: "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. (Matthew 7:3-5)

So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? (Romans 2:3)

TO SAY "ALLAH WILLING"

Never say about anything: "I am doing that tomorrow" without adding "if Allah wills." Remember your Lord when you forget, and say: "Hopefully my Lord will guide me to something closer to right guidance than this." (Surat al-Kahf, 23-24)

Gospel

Now listen, you who say: "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say: "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

TO EXCHANGE GREETINGS

... And when you enter houses, greet one another with a

greeting from Allah, blessed and good.... (Surat an-Nur, 61)

Gospel

As you enter the home, give it your greeting. (Matthew 10:12)

NOT TO FEAR AND NOT TO DESPAIR

[Prophets are] those who conveyed Allah's Message and fear Him, fearing no one except Allah. Allah suffices as a Reckoner. (Surat al-Ahzab, 39)

They [Moses and Aaron] said: "Our Lord, we are afraid that he [Pharaoh] might persecute us or overstep the bounds." He said: "Fear not. I will be with you, All-Hearing and All-Seeing." (Surah Ta Ha, 45-46)

[Believers are] those to whom people said: "The people have gathered against you, so fear them." But that merely increased their faith and they said: "Allah is enough for us and the Best of Guardians." So they returned with blessings and bounty from Allah, and no evil touched them. They pursued the pleasure of Allah. Allah's favor is indeed immense. That was only satan who intimidated his adherents. But do not fear them—fear Me if you are believers. (Surah Al 'Imran, 173-175)

Gospel

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." (1 Peter 3:14)


Correct and courteous words accompanied by forgiveness are better than charity followed by insulting words. Allah is Rich beyond Need, All-Forbearing.
(Surat al-Baqara, 263)

Torah

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with Us than with him. (2 Chronicles 32:7)

VIRTUE AND ONE'S FEAR AND AWE OF ALLAH

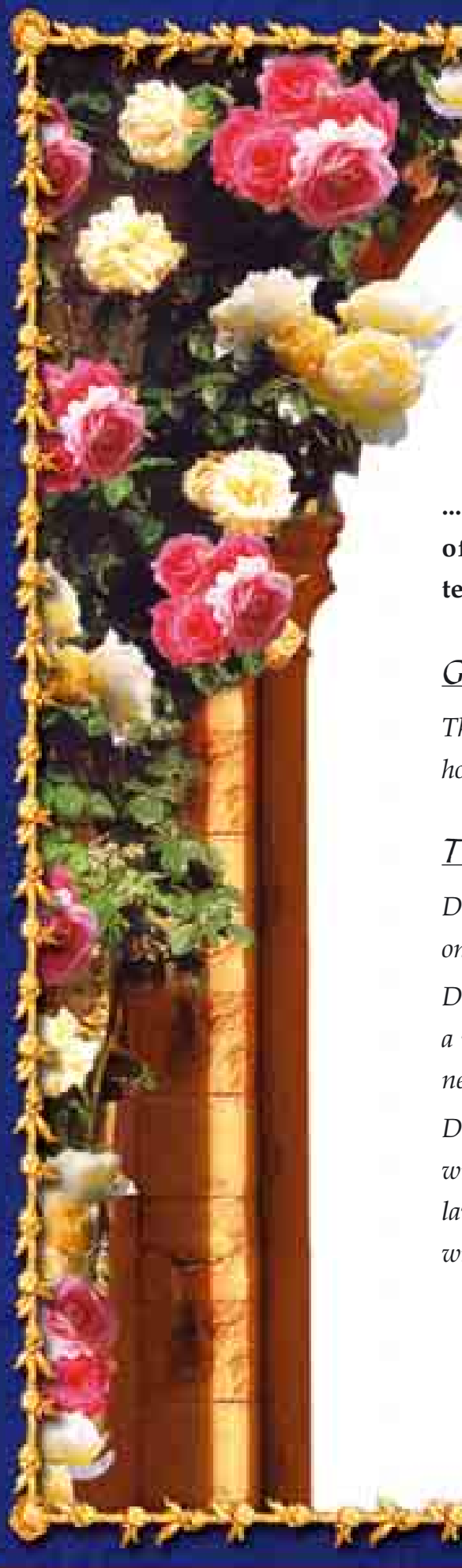
O Children of Adam! We have sent down clothing to you to conceal your private parts, and fine apparel, but the garment of heedfulness—that is best! That is one of Allah's Signs, so that hopefully you will pay heed. (Surat al-A'raf, 26)

Gospel

[O Women!] Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in Allah's Sight. (1 Peter 3:3-4)

Torah

... Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including



every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

TO REFRAIN FROM LYING

... Have done with the defilement of idols and have done with telling lies. (Surat al-Hajj, 30)

Gospel

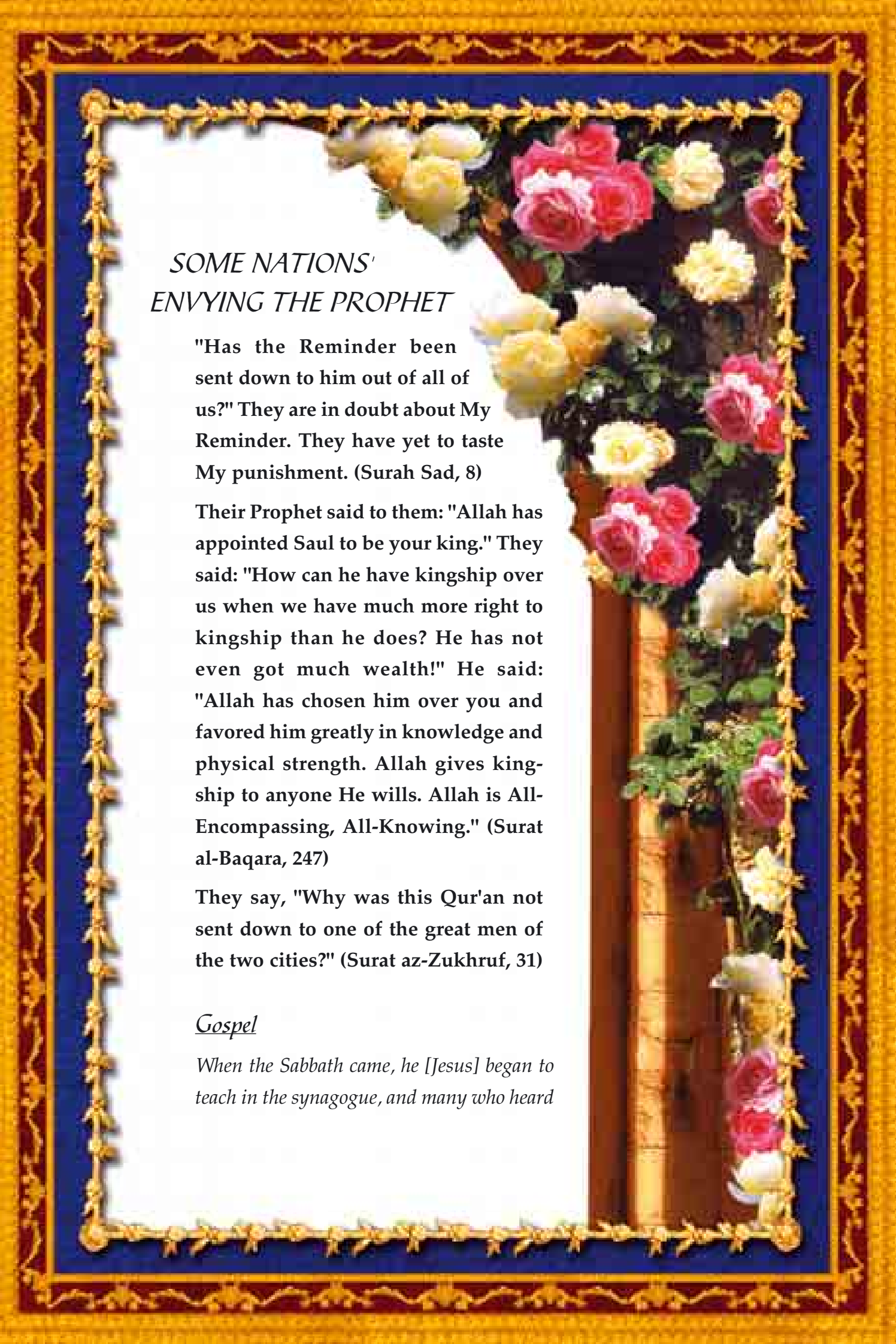
Therefore each of you must put off falsehood... (Ephesians 4:25)

Torah

Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another... (Leviticus 19:11)

Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness.

Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd. (Exodus 23:1-2)



SOME NATIONS' ENVYING THE PROPHET

"Has the Reminder been sent down to him out of all of us?" They are in doubt about My Reminder. They have yet to taste My punishment. (Surah Sad, 8)

Their Prophet said to them: "Allah has appointed Saul to be your king." They said: "How can he have kingship over us when we have much more right to kingship than he does? He has not even got much wealth!" He said: "Allah has chosen him over you and favored him greatly in knowledge and physical strength. Allah gives kingship to anyone He wills. Allah is All-Encompassing, All-Knowing." (Surat al-Baqara, 247)

They say, "Why was this Qur'an not sent down to one of the great men of the two cities?" (Surat az-Zukhruf, 31)

Gospel

When the Sabbath came, he [Jesus] began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard

him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Is this not the carpenter? Is this not Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Are his sisters not here with us?" And they took offense at him. (Mark 6:2-3)

SOME NATIONS' DEMANDING MIRACLES

Those who do not believe say [to Muhammad]: "If only a Sign could be sent down to him from his Lord!" You are only a warner. Every people has a guide. (Surat ar-Ra'd, 7)

They say: "We will not believe you until you make a spring gush out from the ground for us; or have a garden of dates and grapes that you make rivers come pouring through; or make the sky, as you claim, fall down on us in lumps; or bring Allah and the angels here as a guarantee; or possess a house built out of gleaming gold; or ascend up into Heaven—and even then we will not believe in your ascent unless you bring us down a book to read!" Say: "Glory be to my Lord! Am I anything but a human messenger?" (Surat al-'Isra, 90-93)

Gospel

"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." (John 4:48)



So they asked him: "What miraculous sign, then, will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" (John 6:30)

PROPHETS ACCUSED OF BEING POSSESSED

Equally, no Messenger came to those before them without their saying: "A magician or a madman!" Did they bequeath this to each other? Indeed, they are an unbridled people. (Surat adh-Dhariyat, 52-53)

Gospel

When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him [Jesus], for they said: "He is out of his mind." And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said: "He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons." (Mark 3:21-22)

PROPHETS DO NOT SPEAK FROM WHIM

Your companion is not misguided or misled; nor does he speak from whim. It is nothing but Revelation revealed, taught him by One immensely strong. (Surat an-Najm, 53:2-5)



...[Khidr said,] I did not do it of my own volition… (Surat al-Kahf, 82)

Gospel

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him Who sent me. (John 5:30)

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man…. (2 Peter 1:19-21)

Torah

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. (Deuteronomy 18:18)

THE IMPERMANENCE OF THIS LIFE

The life of this world is nothing but a game and a diversion. The abode of the Hereafter—that is truly Life, if they only knew. (Surat al-'Ankabut, 64)

Gospel

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and scares of this life,

and so that that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole Earth. Watch you therefore, and pray always… (Luke 21: 34-36)

And the world pass away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abide for ever. (1st John: 17)

… for the fashion of this world pass away. (1st Corinthians 7:31)

Torah

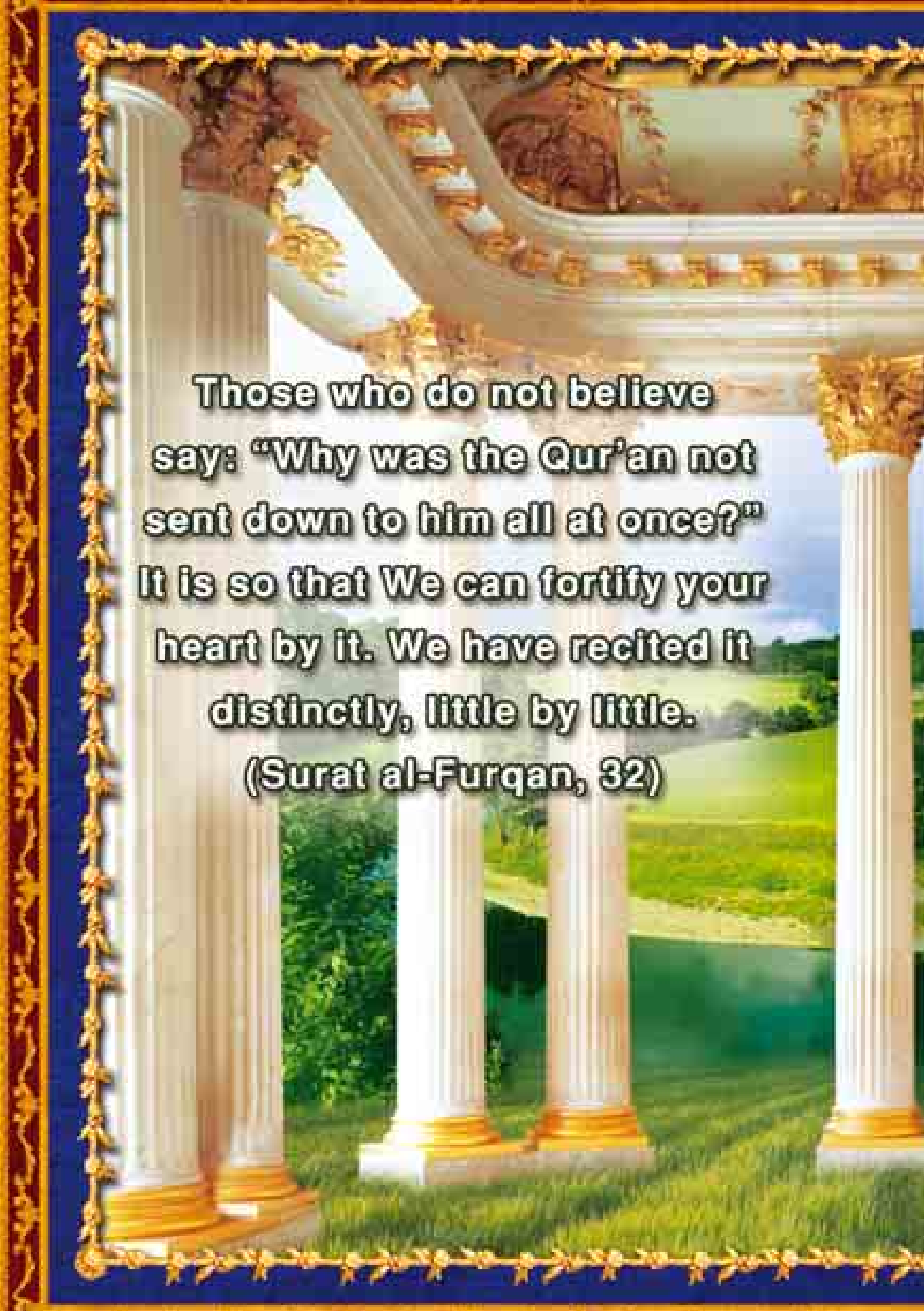
We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on Earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. (1 Chronicles 29:15)

THE UNBELIEVERS WILL BE RESURRECTED BLIND

Those who are blind in this world will be blind in the Hereafter and even further off the Path. (Surat al-Isra', 72-73)

But if anyone turns away from My reminder, his life will be a dark and narrow one, and on the Day of Resurrection We will gather him blind. (Surah Ta Ha, 124)




Those who do not believe
say: "Why was the Qur'an not
sent down to him all at once?"
It is so that We can fortify your
heart by it. We have recited it
distinctly, little by little.
(Surat al-Furqan, 32)



Torah

I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord. (Zephaniah 1:17)

JUDGMENT

And the Hour is coming without any doubt, and Allah will raise up all those in the graves. (Surat al Hajj, 7)

When Earth is flattened out and disgorges what is inside it and empties out, hearkening to its Lord as it is bound to do! O Man! You are toiling laboriously toward your Lord, but meet Him you will! As for him who is given his Book in his right hand, he will be given an easy reckoning and return to his family joyfully. But as for him who is given his Book behind his back, he will cry out for destruction but will be roasted in a Searing Blaze. (Surat al-Ghashiyya, 3-12)

The Trumpet will be blown, and those in the heavens and those in the ground will all lose consciousness, except those whom Allah wills. Then it will be blown a second time, and at once they will be standing upright, looking on. And Earth will shine with the Pure Light of its Lord, the Book will be put in place. The Prophets and witnesses will be brought; it will be decided between them with the truth, and they will not be wronged. Every self will be repaid in full for what it did. He knows best what they are doing. (Surat az-Zumar, 68-70)

Gospel

And [they will] come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. (John 5:29)

Torah

The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head. (Obadiah 1:15)

EVERYONE WILL BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT

You have come to Us all alone, just as We created you at first, leaving behind you everything We bestowed on you. We do not see your intercessors accompanying you, those you claimed were your partners with Allah. The link between you is cut. Those you made such claims for have forsaken you. (Surat al-An'am, 94)

Gospel

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (Romans 14:12)

ALLAH WILL BE FAIR WITH EVERYONE

You will see every nation on its knees, every nation summoned to its Book: "Today you will be repaid for what you did." (Surat al-Jathiyya, 28)

Fear a Day when you will be returned to Allah. Then every self will be paid in full for what it earned. They will not be wronged. (Surat al-Baqara, 281)

Gospel

God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who, by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. (Romans 2:6-8)

Torah

The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head. (Obadiah 1:15)

WORLDLY WEALTH WILL NOT BENEFIT PEOPLE IN THE HEREAFTER

As for those who do not believe, their wealth and children will not help them against Allah in any way. They are fuel for the Fire. (Surah Al 'Imran, 10)

Torah

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath. (Zephaniah 1:18)

THE APPOINTED TIME

If Allah were to punish people for their wrong actions, not a single creature would be left upon Earth, but He defers them till a predetermined time. When their specified time arrives, they cannot delay it for a single hour nor can they bring it forward. (Surat an-Nahl, 61)

Your Lord is the Ever-Forgiving, the Possessor of Mercy. If He had taken them to task for what they have earned, He would have hastened their punishment. Instead, they have a promised appointment and they will not find any refuge from it. (Surat al-Kahf, 58)



Gospel

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

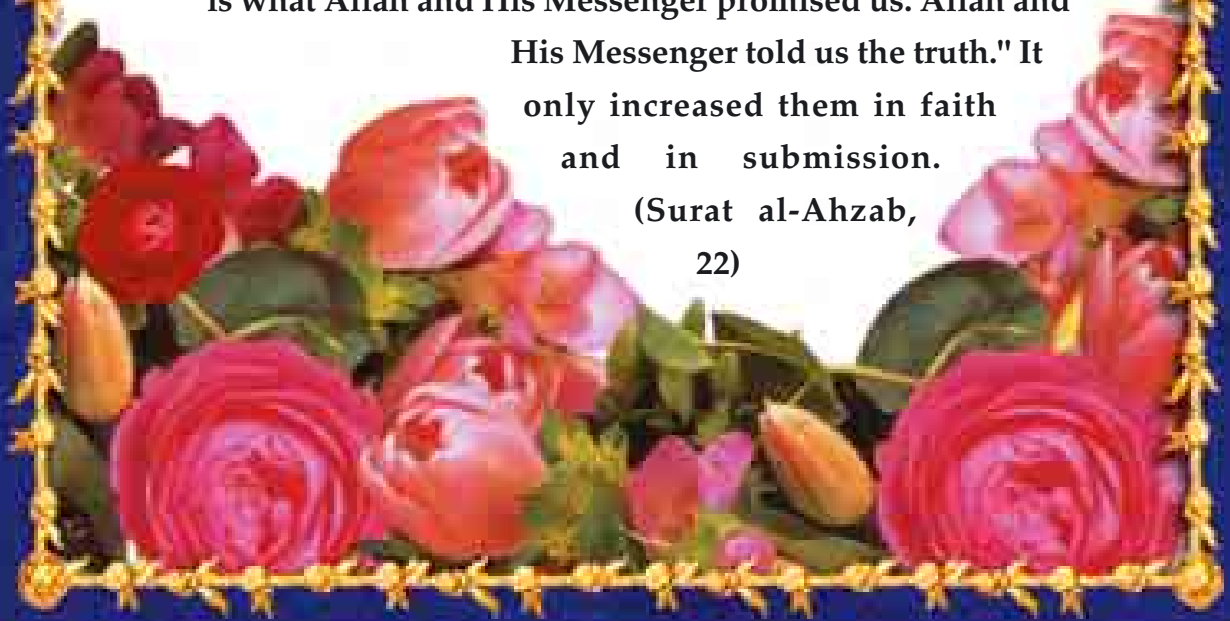
PERSECUTION OF MESSENGERS AND BELIEVERS

We sent Messengers before you among the disparate groups of previous peoples. No Messenger came to them without their mocking him. (Surat al-Hijr, 10-11)

And if you deny it, nations before you also denied the truth. The Messenger is only responsible for clear transmission. (Surat al-'Ankabut, 18)

When those who do not believe were plotting against you to imprison you or to kill you or to expel you: they planned and Allah planned, but Allah is the Best of Planners. (Surat al-Anfal, 30)

When the believers saw the Confederates they said: "This is what Allah and His Messenger promised us. Allah and His Messenger told us the truth." It only increased them in faith and in submission. (Surat al-Ahzab, 22)



Gospel

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12)

Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On My account, you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. (Matthew 10:17-18)

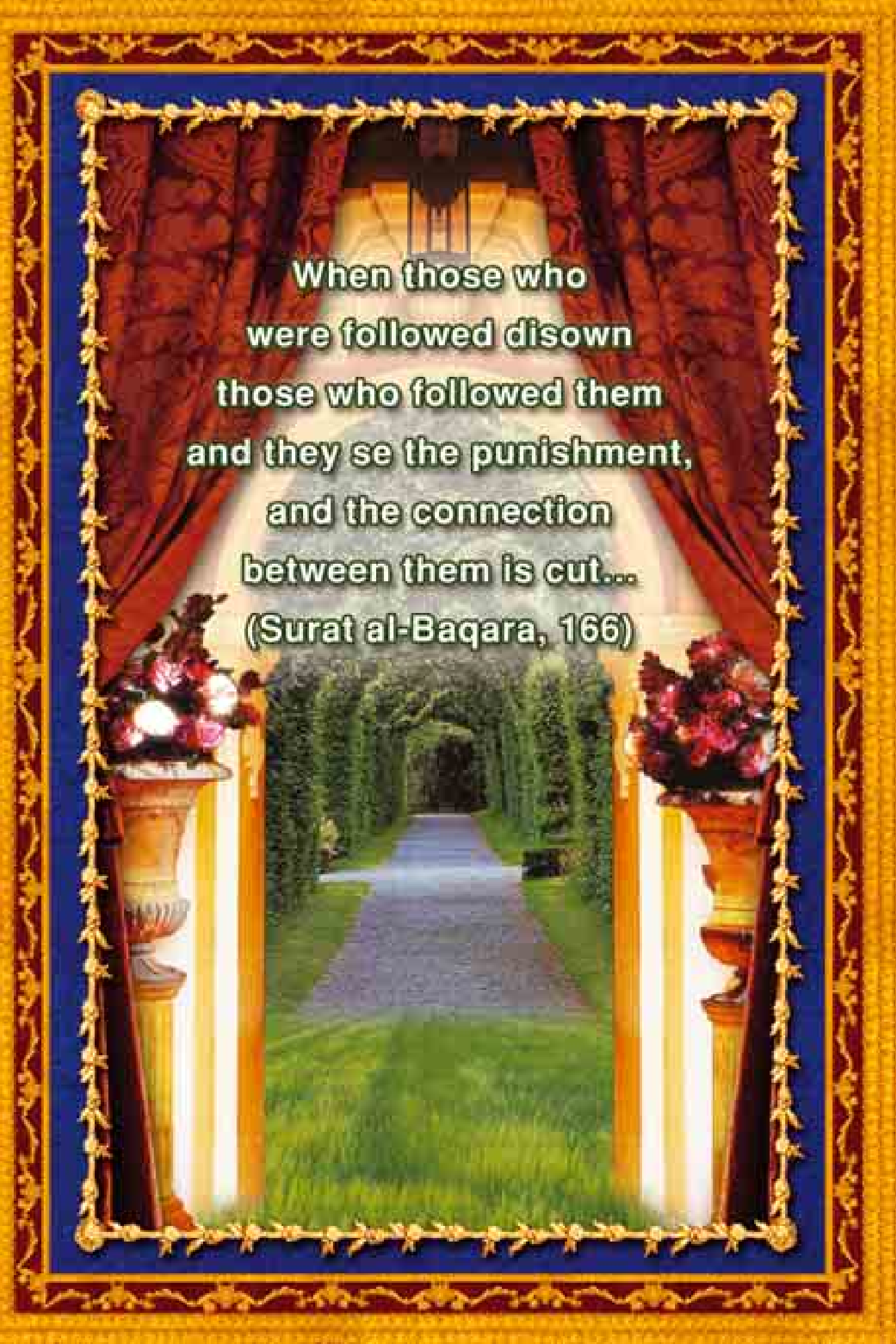
... They called the Apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The Apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name [of Jesus]. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. (Acts 5:40-42)

Torah

"Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more." (Job 8:22)

THE REWARD OF THOSE WHO MIGRATE FOR ALLAH'S SAKE

As for those who migrate for Allah's sake after being wronged, We shall give them good lodging in this world, and the reward of the Hereafter is greater still, if they only knew. (Surah an-Nahl, 41)


When those who
were followed disown
those who followed them
and they se the punishment,
and the connection
between them is cut...
(Surat al-Baqara, 166)

Those who believe and have migrated and striven in the Way of Allah, and those who have given refuge and help, they are the true believers. They will have forgiveness and generous provision. (Surat al-Anfal, 74)

Their Lord responds to them: "I will not let the deeds of any doer among you go to waste, male or female—you are both the same in that respect. Those who migrated and were driven from their homes, and suffered harm in My Way and fought and were killed, I will erase their bad actions from them and admit them into Gardens with rivers flowing under them, as a reward from Allah. The best of all rewards is with Allah." (Surah Al 'Imran, 195)

Gospel

"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the Gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. (Mark 10:29-30)

All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well... (2 Thessalonians 1:5-7)

BELIEVERS ARE FEW IN NUMBER

But most people, for all your eagerness, are not believers. (Surah Yunus, 103)

Alif Lam Mim Ra. Those are the Signs of the Book. And what has been sent down to you from your Lord is the Truth. But most people do not believe. (Surat ar-Ra'd, 1)

If you obeyed most of those on Earth, they would misguide you from Allah's Way. They follow nothing but conjecture. They are only guessing. (Surah al-An'am, 116)

Gospel

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

ALLAH CHOOSES BELIEVERS

Say: "Praise be to Allah and peace be upon His servants, whom He has chosen." Is Allah better, or what you associate with Him? (Surat an-Naml, 59)



Gospel

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved

through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

Torah

... Your God has chosen them to minister and to pronounce blessings in the name of the Lord… (Deuteronomy 21:5)

ALLAH'S GIFT TO BELIEVERS

… Do not say: "You are not a believer" to someone who greets you as a Muslim, simply out of desire for the goods of this world. With Allah there is booty in abundance. That is the way you were before, but Allah has been kind to you... (Surat an-Nisa', 94)

Gospel

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Torah

When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in Latter Days you will return to the Lord your God and obey Him. For the Lord your God is a merciful God; He will not aban-



don or destroy you, or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which He confirmed to them by oath. (Deuteronomy 4:30-31)

NO WORLDLY OCCUPATION PREVENTS BELIEVERS FROM SEEKING ALLAH'S GOOD PLEASURE

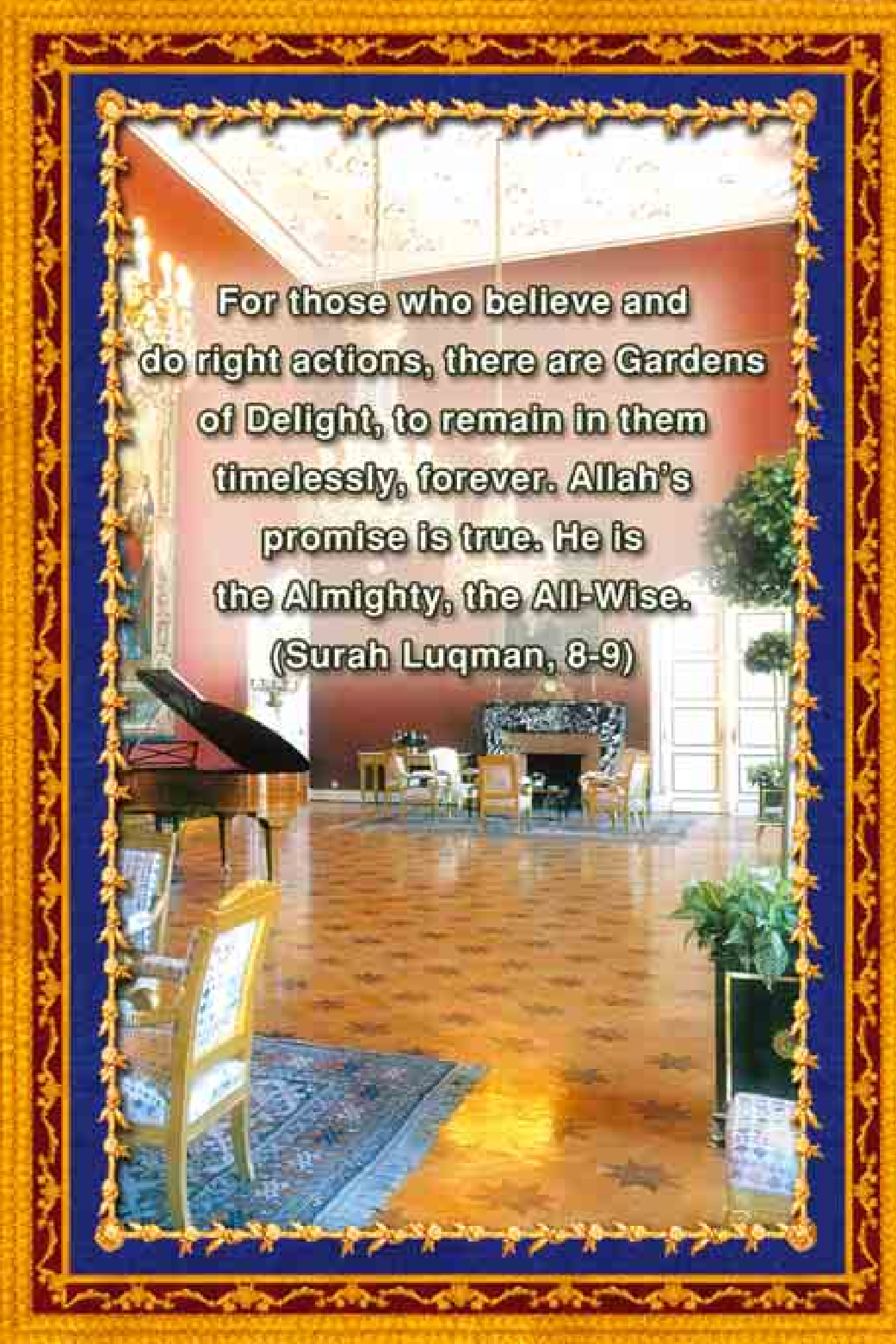
[They are] not distracted by trade or commerce from the remembrance of Allah, the establishment of prayer, and the payment of alms; fearing a day when all hearts and eyes will be in turmoil. (Surat an-Nur, 37)

Gospel

... It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. (Acts 6:2)

TO BE WITH BELIEVERS

Restrain yourself patiently with those who call on their Lord morning and evening, desiring His face. Do not turn your eyes from them, desiring the attractions of this world. And do not obey someone whose heart We have made neglectful of Our remembrance, who follows his own whims and desires, and whose life has transgressed all bounds. (Surat al-Kahf, 28)


For those who believe and
do right actions, there are Gardens
of Delight, to remain in them
timelessly, forever. Allah's
promise is true. He is
the Almighty, the All-Wise.
(Surah Luqman, 8-9)

Gospel

... Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22)

THE BROTHERHOOD OF BELIEVERS

Hold fast to the rope of Allah all together, and do not separate. Remember Allah's blessing to you when you were enemies and He joined your hearts together so that you became brothers by His blessing. You were on the very brink of a pit of the Fire, and He rescued you from it. In this way Allah makes His Signs clear to you, so that hopefully you will be guided. (Surah Al 'Imran, 103)

The male and female believers are friends of one another. They command what is right and forbid what is wrong, perform prayer and give the alms, and obey Allah and His Messenger… (Surat at-Tawba, 71)

Gospel

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother. (Mark 3:35)

TO BE STEADFAST IN ALLAH'S RELIGION

As for those who hold fast to the Book and perform prayer, We will not let the wage of the righteous be wasted. (Surat al-A'raf, 170)

So hold fast to what has been revealed to you. You are on a straight path. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 43)

Hold fast to the rope of Allah all together, and do not separate. Remember Allah's blessing to you... (Surah Al 'Imran, 103)

Gospel

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

He [an overseer] must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9)

A BELIEVER'S LIFE AND DEATH ARE FOR ALLAH

Say: "My prayer and my rites, my living and my dying, are for Allah alone, the Lord of all the worlds." (Surat al-An'am, 162)

Those who, when disaster strikes them, say: "We belong to Allah, and to Him we will return." (Surat al-Baqara, 156)

Gospel

For none of us lives to himself alone, and none of us dies to himself

alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Romans 14:7-8)

SHUNNING THE ANCESTORS' RELIGION

When they are told: "Follow what Allah has sent down to you," they say: "We are following what we found our fathers doing." What, even though their fathers did not understand a thing and were not guided! (Surat al-Baqara, 170)

Gospel

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.

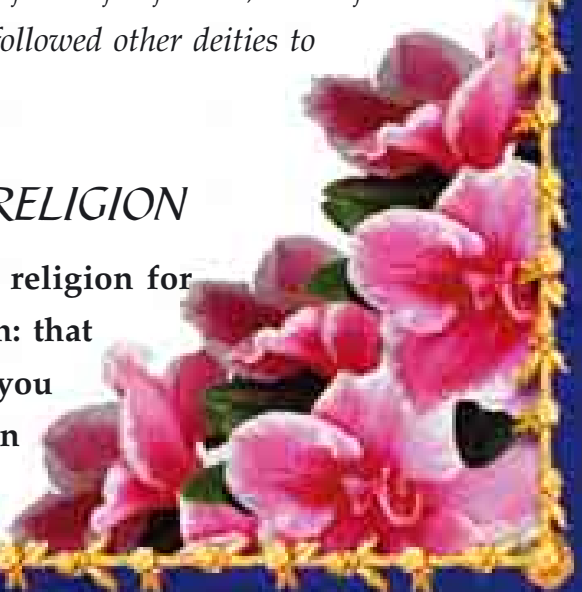
And he [Jesus] said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" (Mark 7:8-9)

Torah

"They have returned to the sins of their forefathers, who refused to listen to My words. They have followed other deities to serve them..." (Jeremiah 11:10)

NOT TO BE DIVIDED IN RELIGION

He has laid down the same religion for you as He enjoined on Noah: that which We have revealed to you and which We enjoined on



Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "Establish the religion and do not make divisions in it"... (Surat ash-Shura, 13)

[Idolaters are] those who split up their religion and form into sects, each faction exulting in what they have. (Surat ar-Rum, 32)

Those who were given the Book did not divide into sects until after the Clear Sign came to them. (Surat al-Bayyina, 4)

Obey Allah and His Messenger and do not quarrel among yourselves, lest you lose heart and your momentum disappear. And be steadfast. Allah is with the steadfast. (Surat al-Anfal, 46)

Gospel

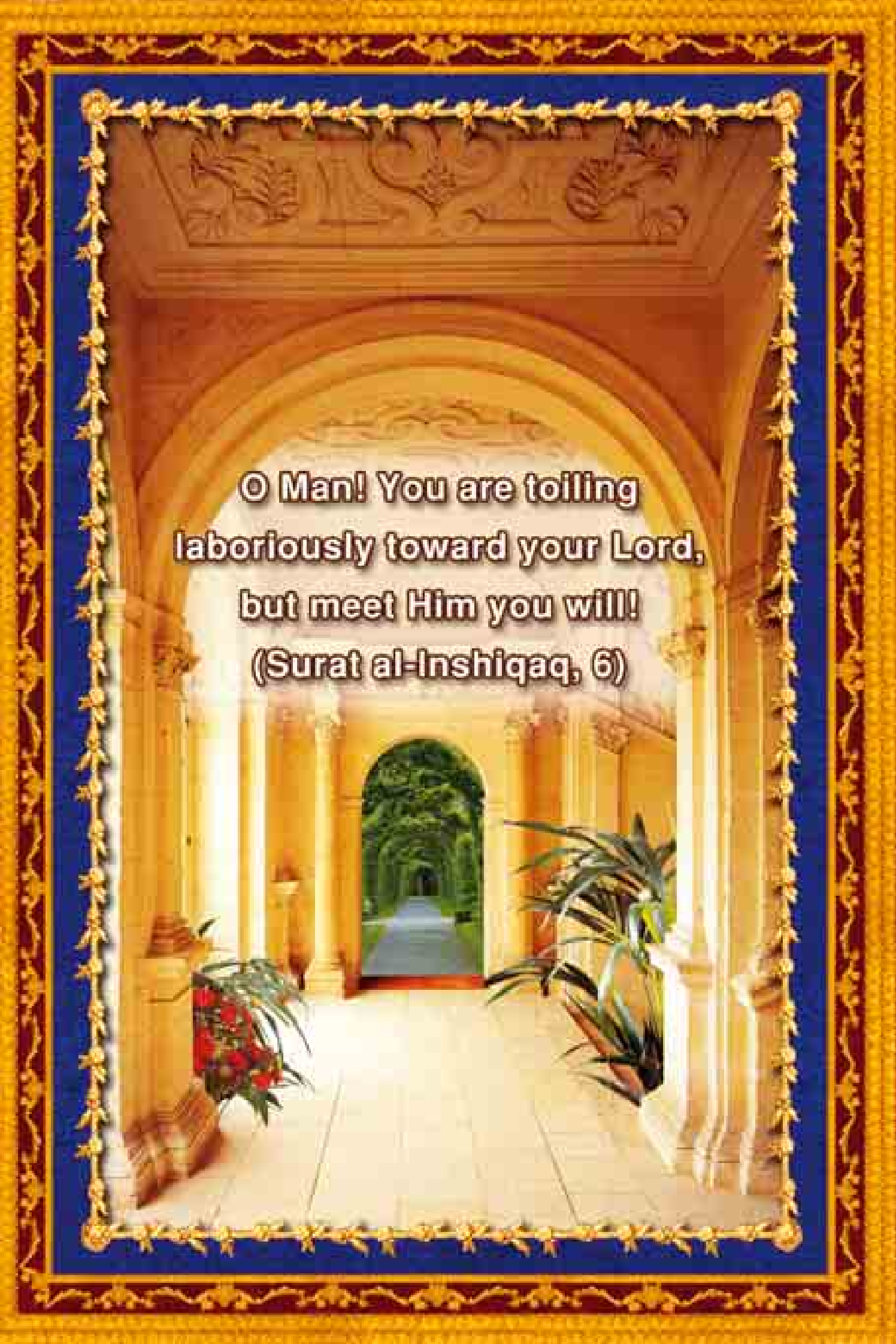
... All of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

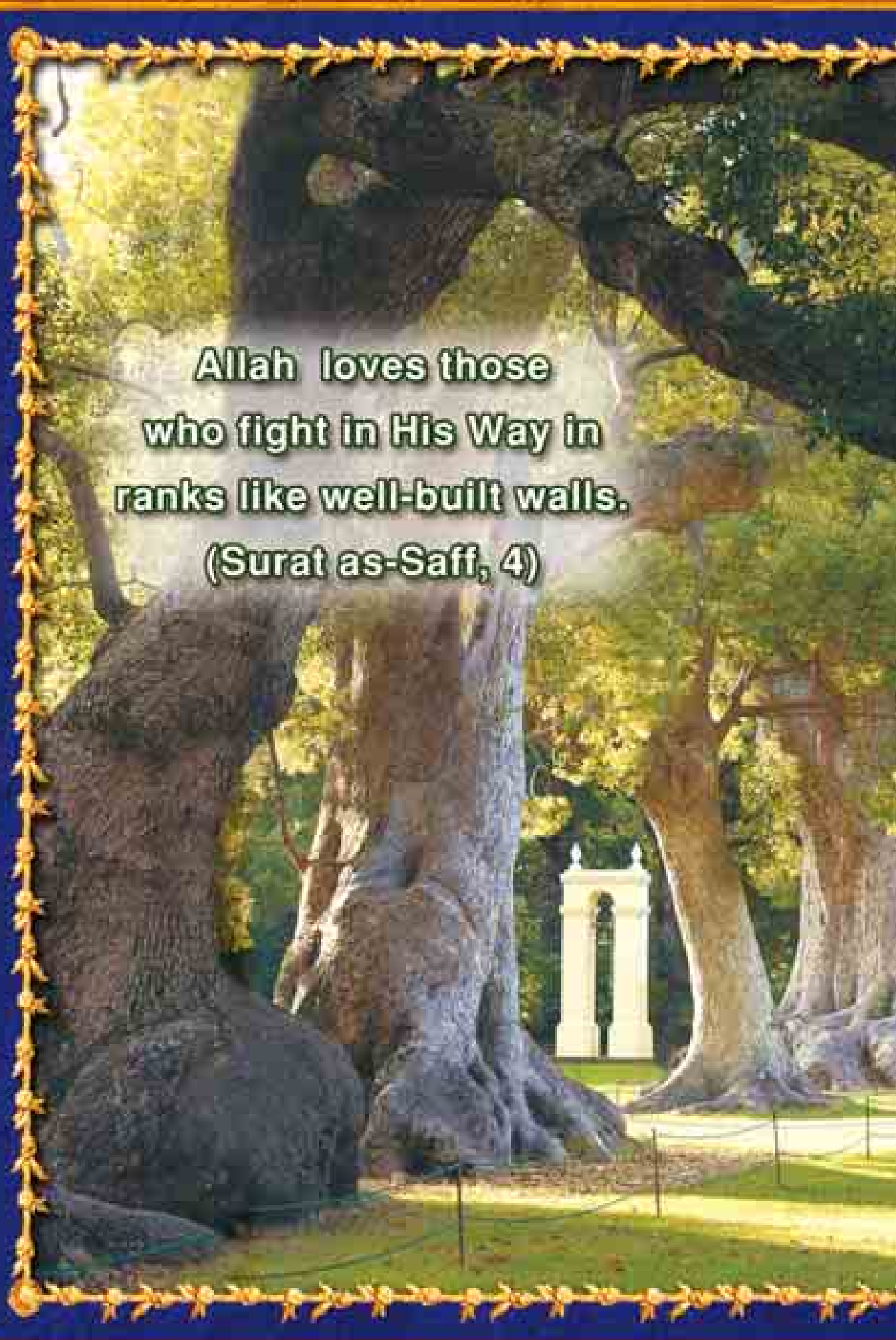
MAN'S CREATION

We created man from the purest kind of clay, then made him a drop in a secure receptacle, then formed the drop into a clot, formed the clot into a lump, formed the lump into bones, clothed the bones in flesh, and then brought him into being as another creature. Blessed be Allah, the Best of Creators! (Surat al-Muminun, 12-14)

Torah

Your hands shaped me and made me... Remember that You molded


O Man! You are toiling
laboriously toward your Lord,
but meet Him you will!
(Surat al-Inshiqaq, 6)


Allah loves those
who fight in His Way in
ranks like well-built walls.
(Surat as-Saff, 4)



me like clay... [Did you not] clothe me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews? (Job 10:8-11)

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4)

I am just like you before God; I too have been taken from clay. (Job 33:6)

THE SELFISH SELF WILL ALWAYS COMMAND EVIL

And [I swear by] the self and what proportioned it, with depravity or consciousness of Allah, he who purifies it has succeeded. (Surat ash-Shams, 7-9)

But people are prone to selfish greed. If you do good and guard against evil, Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat an-Nisa', 128)

[Joseph said,] I do not say my self was free from blame. The self indeed commands to evil acts—except for those my Lord has mercy on… (Surah Yusuf, 53)

Gospel

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its evil desires. (Romans 6:12)

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of Allah. (Galatians 5:19-21)

He [Jesus] went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'" (Mark 7:20-23)

BAD CHARACTER TRAITS

But do not obey any vile swearer of oaths, any backbiter, slandermonger, impeder of good, evil aggressor, or gross, coarse and, furthermore, despicable person, simply because he possesses wealth and sons. When Our Signs are recited to him, he says: "Just myths of previous peoples!" (Surat al-Qalam, 10-15)

An evil generation succeeded them who neglected the prayer and followed their appetites. They will plunge into the Valley of Evil. (Surah Maryam, 59)

Gospel

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, slanderers ... insolent, arrogant, and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. (Romans 1:29-31)

Torah

They would not be like their forefathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to Allah, whose spirits were not faithful to Him. (Psalm 78:8)

Suppose he has a violent son who sheds blood or does any of these other things (though the father has done none of them): He eats at the mountain shrines, defiles his neighbor's wife, oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, does not return what he took in pledge, and looks to the idols. He does detestable things. (Ezekiel 18:10-12)

He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success. He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away. (Job 5:12-13)

THE INCREASING INSENSITIVITY OF ONE'S EYES, EARS, AND HEARTS

They say [to Muhammad]: "Our hearts are covered up against what you call us to, and there is a heaviness in our ears. There is a screen between us and you. So act—we are certainly acting." (Surah Fussilat, 5)

Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing, and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara, 7)

Some of them listen to you, but We have placed covers on their hearts, preventing them from understanding it, and heaviness in their ears. Though they see every Sign, they still have no faith, so that when they come to you, disputing with you, those who do not believe say: "This is noth-

ing but the myths of previous peoples!" (Surat Al-An'am, 25)

We created many of the jinn and humanity for Hell. They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A'raf, 179)

Gospel

"For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." (Matthew 13:15)

Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?... (Mark 8:18)

Go to this people and say: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn... (Acts 28:26-27)



DENIERS THINK THEY ARE SMART

When they are told: "Believe in the way that the people believe," they say: "What! Are we to believe in the way that fools believe?" No indeed! They are the fools, but they do not know it. (Surat al-Baqara, 13)

Gospel

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. (Romans 1:22)

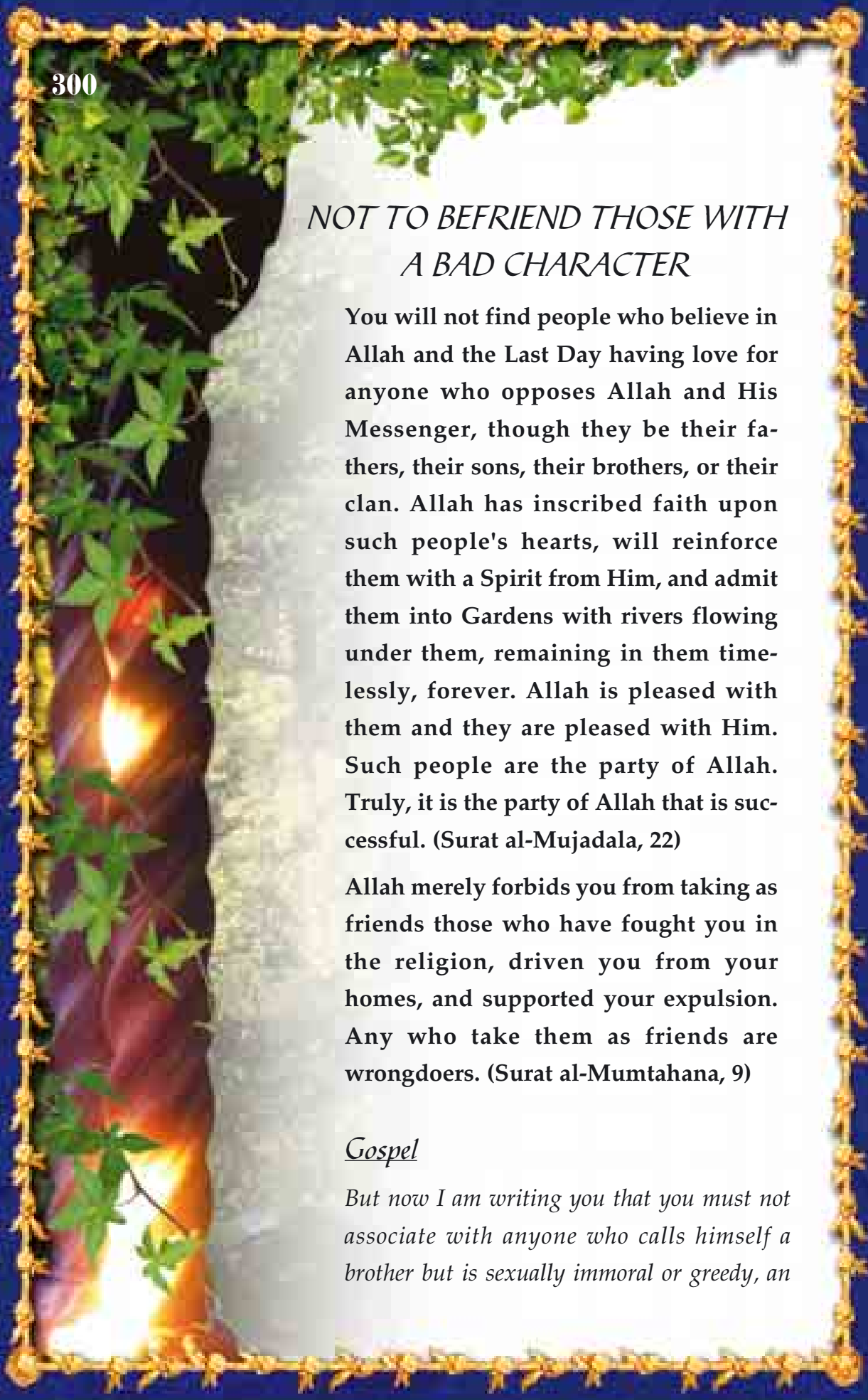
DEBASEMENT OF THE UNBELIEVERS

No self can believe except with Allah's permission. He places a blight on those who do not use their intellect. (Surah Yunus, 100)

Gospel

Therefore God gave them over, through the sinful desires of their hearts, to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. (Romans 1:24)





NOT TO BEFRIEND THOSE WITH A BAD CHARACTER

You will not find people who believe in Allah and the Last Day having love for anyone who opposes Allah and His Messenger, though they be their fathers, their sons, their brothers, or their clan. Allah has inscribed faith upon such people's hearts, will reinforce them with a Spirit from Him, and admit them into Gardens with rivers flowing under them, remaining in them timelessly, forever. Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him. Such people are the party of Allah. Truly, it is the party of Allah that is successful. (Surat al-Mujadala, 22)

Allah merely forbids you from taking as friends those who have fought you in the religion, driven you from your homes, and supported your expulsion. Any who take them as friends are wrongdoers. (Surat al-Mumtahana, 9)

Gospel

But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an

idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. (1 Corinthians 5:11)

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people… Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore, do not be partners with them. (Ephesians 5:3, 6-7)

ONE DAY IN ALLAH'S PRESENCE IS LIKE ONE THOUSAND YEARS FOR US

They ask you to hasten the punishment. Allah will not break His promise. A day with your Lord is equivalent to a thousand years in the way you count. (Surat al-Hajj, 47)

Gospel

... With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:8-9)

NO ONE WILL BEAR ANOTHER PERSON'S SINS

Whoever is guided is only guided to his own good. Whoever is misguided is only misguided to his detriment. No burden-bearer can bear another's burden. We never punish until We have sent a Messenger. (Surat al-'Isra, 15)

Torah

The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him. (Ezekiel 18:20)

PEOPLE ARE PUNISHED FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE

Any disaster that strikes you is through what your own hands have earned, and He pardons much. (Surat ash-Shura, 30)

Torah

What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, you have punished us less than our sins have deserved and have given us such deliverance as this. (Ezra 9:13)



TRUST IN ALLAH

If Allah helps you, no one can vanquish you. If He forsakes you, who can help you after that? So the believers should put their trust in Allah. (Surah Al 'Imran, 160)

O you who believe! Remember Allah's blessing to you when certain people were on the verge of raising their hands against you and He held their hands back from you. Heed Allah. The believers should put their trust in Allah. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 11)

Gospel

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ... Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. ... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" (Luke 12:22-26)

Torah

He [Uzziah] sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success. (2 Chronicles 26:5)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you. (Psalm 84:12)

ALLAH STRAIGHTENS OUT THE PATHS

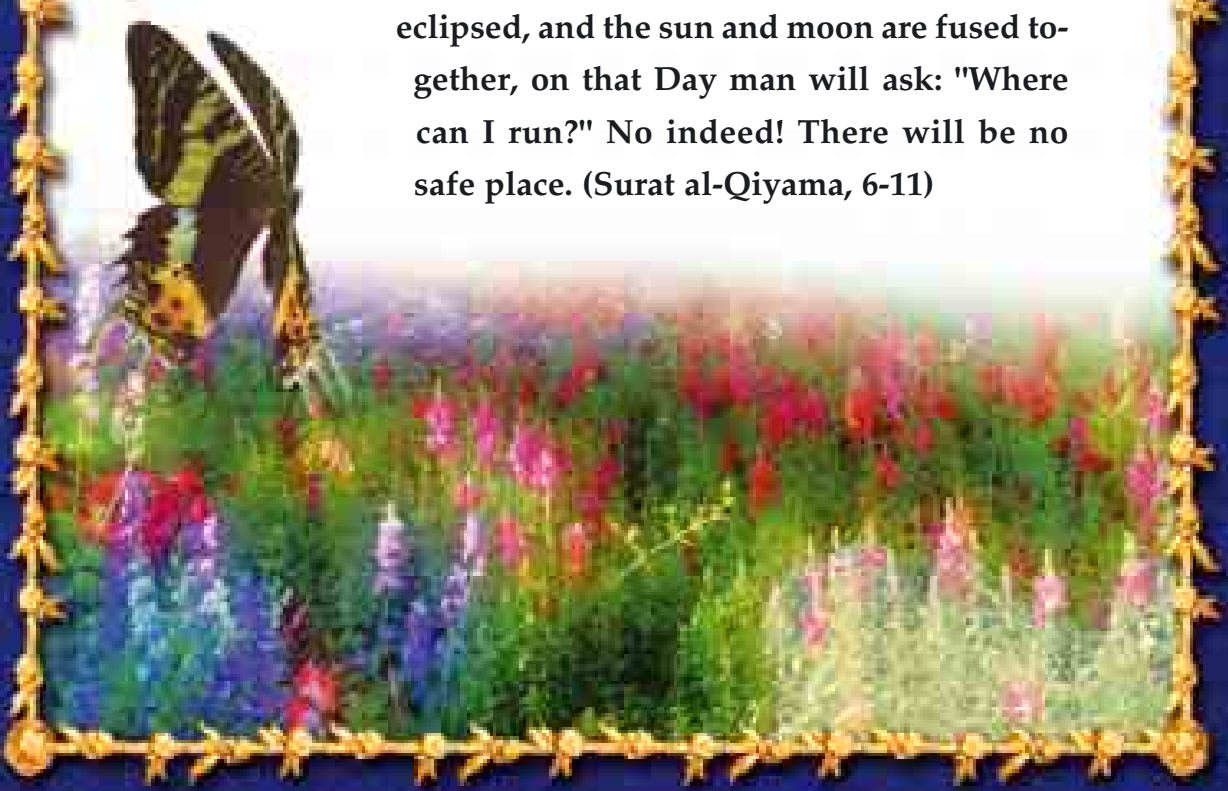
It rests with Allah alone to show you the right path:yet there is [many a one] who swerves from it. If He had wished, He could have guided every one of you. (Surat an-Nahl, 9)

Torah

[I]n all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:6)

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

[Man asks]: "So when is the Day of Resurrection?" But when the eyesight is dazzled, and the moon is eclipsed, and the sun and moon are fused together, on that Day man will ask: "Where can I run?" No indeed! There will be no safe place. (Surat al-Qiyama, 6-11)



When the stars are extinguished, when Heaven is split open, when the mountains are pulverised, and when the Messengers' time is appointed. (Surat al-Mursalat, 8-11)

The Hour is coming, but I have concealed it so that every self can be repaid for its efforts. (Surah Ta Ha, 15)

They will ask you about the Hour: When is it due? Say: "Knowledge of it rests with my Lord alone. He alone will reveal it at its proper time. It hangs heavy in the heavens and Earth. It will not come upon you except suddenly." They will ask you as if you had full knowledge of it. Say: "Knowledge of it rests with Allah alone. But most people do not know that." (Surat al-A'raf, 187)

On the Day the sky is like molten brass and the mountains like tufts of colored wool. No good friend will ask about his friend. (Surat al-Ma'arij, 8-10)

When Heaven is split apart and goes red like dregs of oil. (Surat ar-Rahman, 37)

Gospel

But in those days, following that distress, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky... (Mark 13:24-25)





Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (Mark 13:33)

Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life, and that Day will close on you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole Earth. (Luke 21:34-35)

... The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and Earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the Day of God and speed its coming. That Day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. (2 Peter 3:10-12)

Torah

... For the Day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. (Joel 3:14-15)

… The Day of the Lord is near; it will



come like destruction from the Almighty. Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt. Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame. See, the Day of the Lord is coming—a cruel Day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. (Isaiah 13:6-10)

Alas for that Day! For the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. (Joel 1:15)

The great Day of the Lord is near—near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the Day of the Lord will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That Day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. (Zephaniah 1:14-15)

THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION



arwinism, in other words the theory of evolution, was put forward with the aim of denying the fact of Creation, but is in truth nothing but failed, unscientific nonsense. **This theory, which claims that life emerged by chance from inanimate matter, was invalidated by the scientific evidence of miraculous order in the universe and in living things, as well as by the discovery of about 300 million fossils revealing that evolution never happened.** In this way, **science confirmed the fact that Allah created the universe and the living things in it.** The propaganda carried out today in order to keep the theory of evolution alive is based solely on the distortion of the scientific facts, biased interpretation, and lies and falsehoods disguised as science.

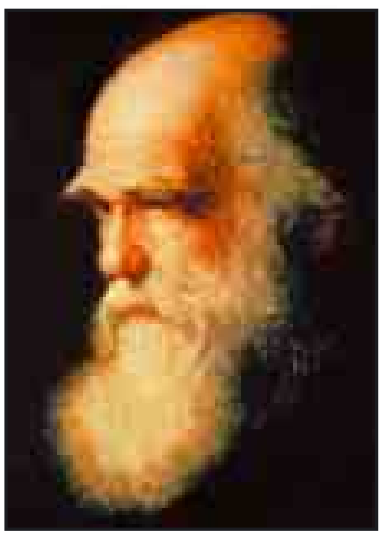
Yet this propaganda cannot conceal the truth. The fact that **the theory of evolution is the greatest deception in the history of science** has been expressed more and more in the scientific world over the last 20-30 years. Research carried out after the 1980s in particular has revealed that the claims of Darwinism are totally unfounded, something that has been stated by a large number of scientists. In the

United States in particular, many scientists from such different fields as biology, biochemistry and paleontology recognize the invalidity of Darwinism and employ the fact of Creation to account for the origin of life.

We have examined the collapse of the theory of evolution and the proofs of Creation in great scientific detail in many of our works, and are still continuing to do so. Given the enormous importance of this subject, it will be of great benefit to summarize it here.

The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism

As **a pagan doctrine** going back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's The Origin of Species, published in 1859. In this book, he opposed, in his own eyes, the fact that Allah created different living species on Earth separately, for he erroneously claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. **Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption."** Moreover, as



Charles Darwin

Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled **"Difficulties on Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.**

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.

2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.

3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin of Life

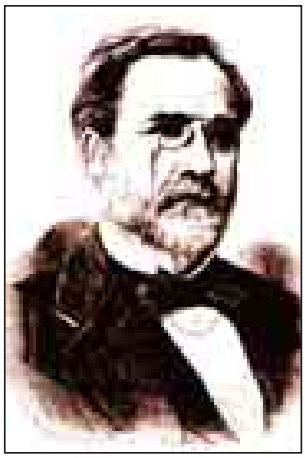
The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask:

How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution ignorantly denies Creation, it maintains that the "first cell" originated as a product of blind coincidences within the laws of nature, without any plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"Life Comes From Life"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times, spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted. It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food leftovers, and mice from wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.



Louis Pasteur

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, **it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by**



Alexander Oparin

flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote The Origin of Species, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, **five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory.** In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, **Pasteur said: "Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."**[18]

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.

Inconclusive Efforts of the Twentieth Century

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various theses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate

by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had to make the following confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.[19]

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that **this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.**[20]

After a long silence, **Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.**[21]

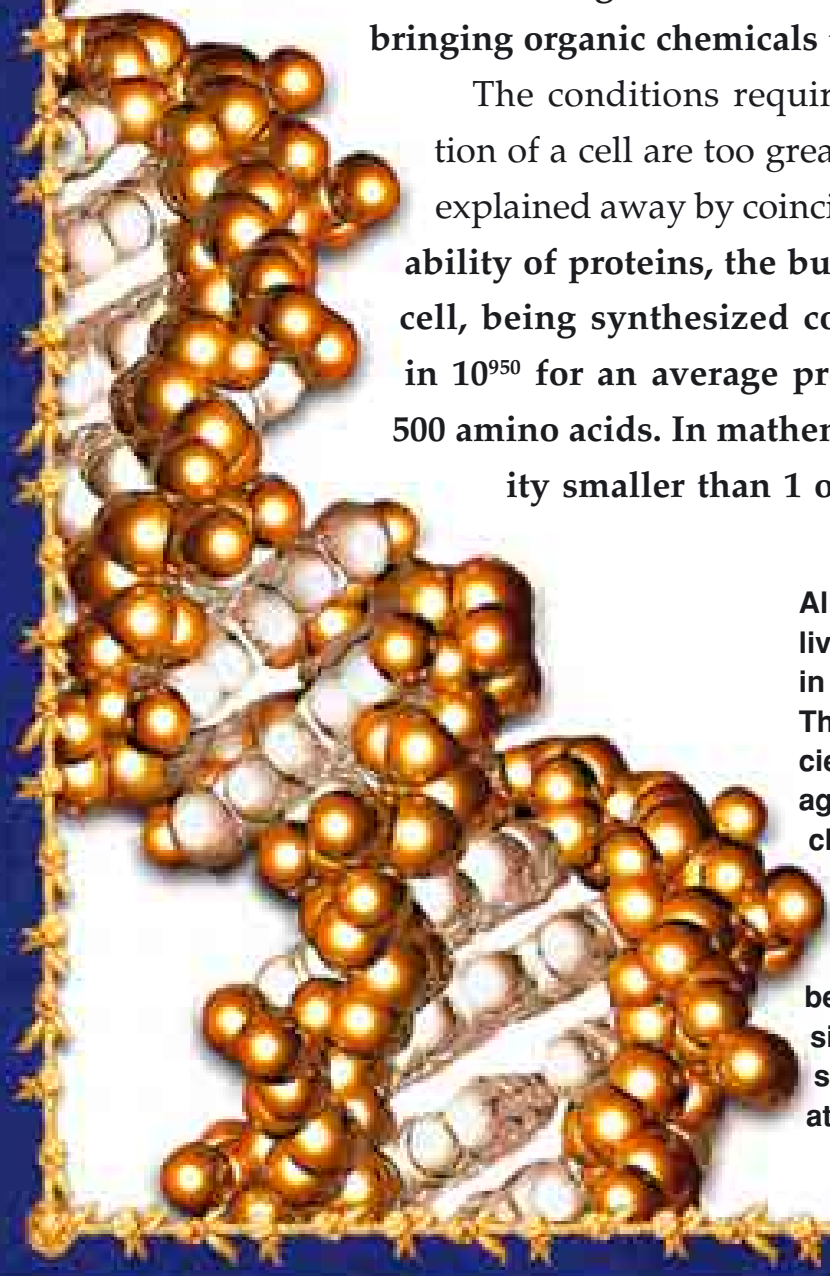
All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in *Earth* magazine in 1998:

> *Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?*[22]

The Complex Structure of Life

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living organisms deemed to be the simplest have outstandingly complex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our man-made technological products. **Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.**

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. **The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coincidentally, is 1 in 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} is consid-**



All information about living beings is stored in the DNA molecule. This incredibly efficient information storage method alone is a clear evidence that life did not come into being by chance, but has been purposely designed, or, better to say, marvellously created.

ered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is a magnificent databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

> ***It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet*** *it also seems impossible*



to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.[23]

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated spontaneously as a result of blind coincidences, then it has to be accepted that life was **"created."** This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny Creation.

Imaginary Mechanism of Evolution

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection*…

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

Therefore, **the mechanism of natural selection has no**

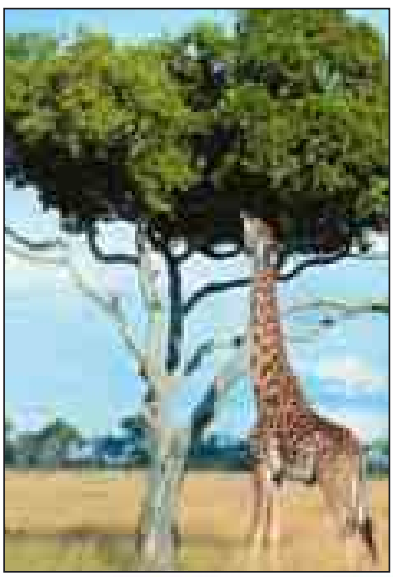
evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book The Origin of Species:

> *Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.*[24]

Lamarck's Impact

So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book The Origin of Species, for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.[25]



However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth cen-

tury, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

Neo-Darwinism and Mutations

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930s. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that Darwinists espouse, despite their own awareness of its scientific invalidity, is neo-Darwinism.

Accidental mutations develop into defects in humans as well as other living beings. The Chernobyl disaster is an eye-opener for the effects of mutations.



The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: **Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.**

The reason for this is very simple: **DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it.** The American geneticist B. G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:

> *First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example,* ***if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.***[26]

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do

nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that **there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature.** Since no evolutionary mechanism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.

The Fossil Record: No Sign of Intermediate Forms

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to the unscientific supposition of this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some reptile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as "transitional forms."

If such animals ever really existed, there should be mil-

lions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In The Origin of Species, Darwin explained:

If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.[27]

However, **Darwin was well aware that no fossils of these intermediate forms had yet been found.** He regarded this as a major difficulty for his theory. In one chapter of his book titled "Difficulties on Theory," he wrote:

> ***Why,*** *if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations,* ***do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms? Why is not all nature in confusion instead of the species being, as we see them, well defined?... But, as by this theory innumerable transitional forms must have existed, why do we not find them embedded in countless numbers in the crust of the earth?... Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links?*** *Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.*[28]

Darwin's Hopes Shattered

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nine-

LIVING FOSSILS REFUTE EVOLUTION

Fossils are proof that evolution never happened. As the fossil record shows, living things came into being in a single moment, with all the characteristics they possess and never altered in the least for so long as the species survived. Fish have always existed as fish, insects as insects and reptiles as reptiles. There is no scientific validity to the claim that species develop gradually. Almighty Allah created all living things.





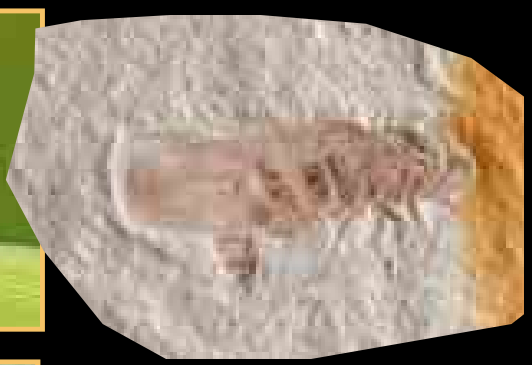
A 54-to-37-million-year-old fossil sunfish





A 295-million-year-old fossil sea urchin





A 125-million-year-old fossil cicada





A 50-million-year-old fossil sequoia leaf

teenth century all over the world, **no transitional forms have yet been uncovered.** All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that **life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.**

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

> *The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, **we find – over and over again – not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.***[29]

This means that in **the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between.** This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that **all living things are created.** The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.[30]

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the Earth. That means that "the

origin of species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but **Creation.**

The Tale of Human Evolution

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that man evolved from so-called ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between present-day man and his imaginary ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

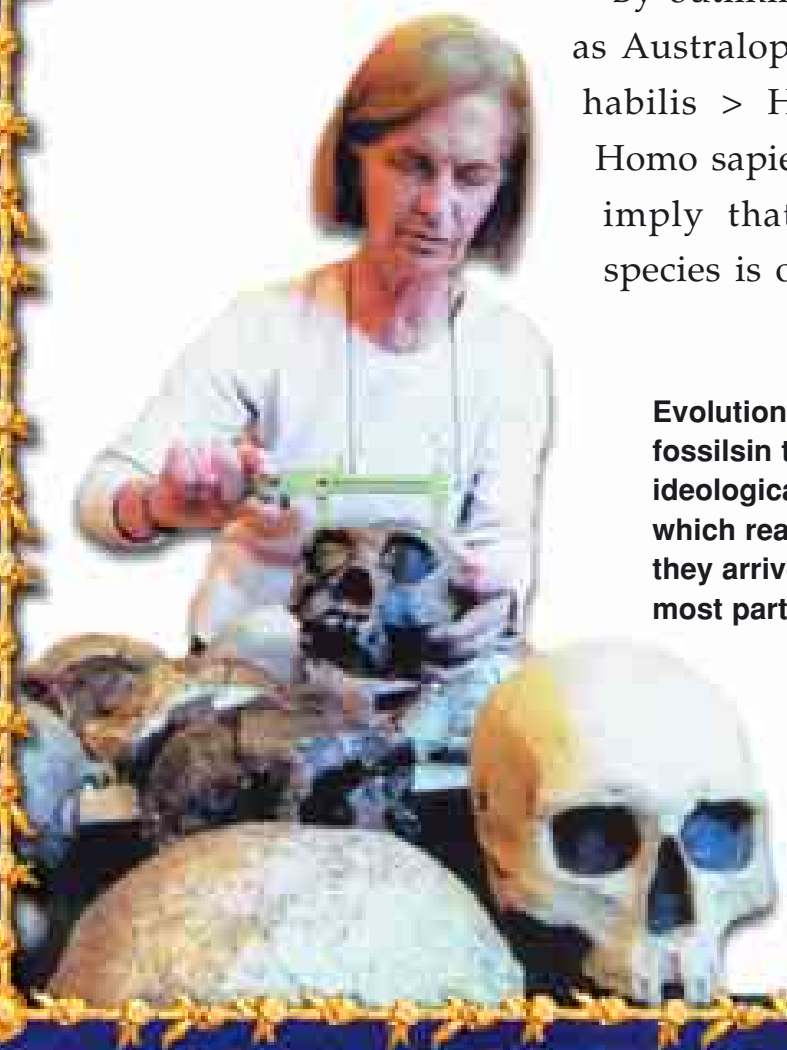
1. Australopithecus
2. Homo habilis
3. Homo erectus
4. Homo sapiens

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors Australopithecus, which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various Australopithecus specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.[31]

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as "homo," that is "man." According to their claim, the living

beings in the Homo series are more developed than Australopithecus. Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book One Long Argument that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of Homo sapiens, are extremely difficult and may even resist a final, satisfying explanation."[32]

By outlining the link chain as Australopithecus > Homo habilis > Homo erectus > Homo sapiens, evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's an-



Evolutionists generally interpret fossilsin the light of their ideological expectations, for which reason the conclusions they arrive at are for the most part unreliable.



Evolutionist newspapers and magazines often print pictures of primitive man. The only available source for these pictures is the imagination of the artist. Evolutionary theory has been so dented by scientific data that today we see less and less of it in the serious press.

cestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that Australopithecus, Homo habilis, and Homo erectus lived at different parts of the world at the same time.[33]

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as Homo erectus have lived up until very modern times. **Homo sapiens neandarthalensis and Homo sapiens sapiens (present-day man) co-existed in the same region.**[34]

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. The late Stephen Jay Gould explained this deadlock of the theory of evolution although he was himself one of the leading advocates of evolution in the twentieth century:

> *What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (A. africanus, the robust australopithecines, and H. habilis), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.*[35]

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but **a tale with no scientific foundation.**

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for years and studied Australopithecus fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, **that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.**

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" ranging from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

> *We then move right off the register of objective truth into those fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible – and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.*[36]

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but

the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

Darwinian Formula!

Besides all the technical evidence we have dealt with so far, let us now for once, examine what kind of a superstition the evolutionists have with an example so simple as to be understood even by children:

The theory of evolution asserts that life is formed by chance. According to this irrational claim, lifeless and unconscious atoms came together to form the cell and then they somehow formed other living things, including man. Let us think about that. When we bring together the elements that are the building-blocks of life such as carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, only a heap is formed. No matter what treatments it undergoes, this atomic heap cannot form even a single living being. If you like, let us formulate an "experiment" on this subject and let us examine on the behalf of evolutionists what they really claim without pronouncing loudly under the name **"Darwinian formula":**

> *Let evolutionists put plenty of materials present in the composition of living things such as phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, iron, and magnesium into big barrels. Moreover, let them add in these barrels any material that does not exist under normal conditions, but they think as necessary. Let them add in this mixture as many amino acids and as many proteins—a single one of which has a formation probability of 1 in 10^{950}—as they like. Let them expose these mixtures to as much heat and moisture as they like. Let them stir these with whatever technologically developed device they like. Let*

them put the foremost scientists beside these barrels. Let these experts wait in turn beside these barrels for billions, and even trillions of years. Let them be free to use all kinds of conditions they believe to be necessary for a human's formation. ***No matter what they do, they cannot produce from these barrels a human, say a professor that examines his cell structure under the electron microscope.*** *They cannot produce giraffes, lions, bees, canaries, horses, dolphins, roses, orchids, lilies, carnations, bananas, oranges, apples, dates, tomatoes, melons, watermelons, figs, olives, grapes, peaches, peafowls, pheasants, multicoloured butterflies, or millions of other living beings such as these. Indeed, they could not obtain even a single cell of any one of them.*

Briefly, **unconscious atoms cannot form the cell** by coming together. They cannot take a new decision and divide this cell into two, then take other decisions and create the professors who first invent the electron microscope and then examine their own cell structure under that microscope. **Matter is an unconscious, lifeless heap, and it comes to life with Allah's superior creation.**

The theory of evolution, which claims the opposite, is a total fallacy completely contrary to reason. Thinking even a little bit on the claims of evolutionists discloses this reality, just as in the above example.

Technology in the Eye and the Ear

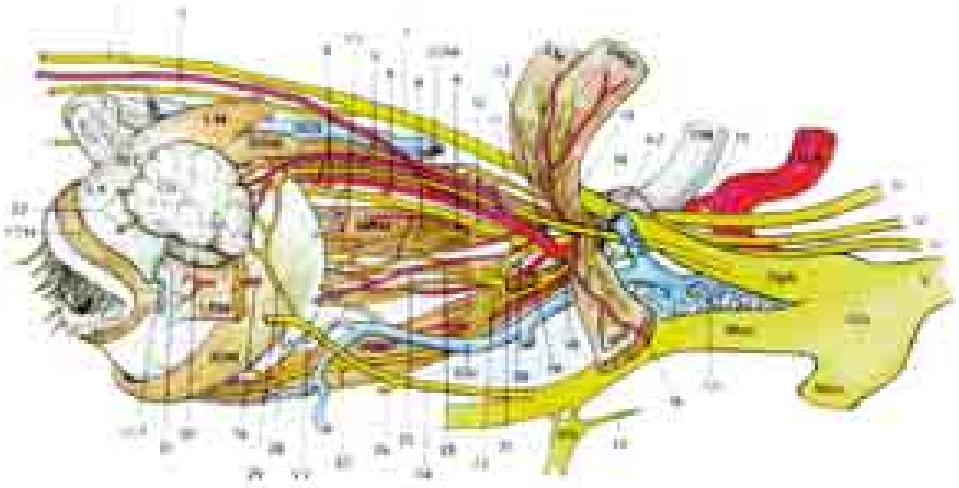
Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly

answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to attain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in



Compared to cameras and sound recording machines, the eye and ear are much more complex, much more successful and possess far superior designs to these products of high technology.

sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was

formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than **the eye could not have been formed by chance,** then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and the inner ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, **the brain is insulated from sound** just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. **In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.**

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing

sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since **the creation of man.**

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

To Whom Does the Consciousness that Sees and Hears within the Brain Belong?

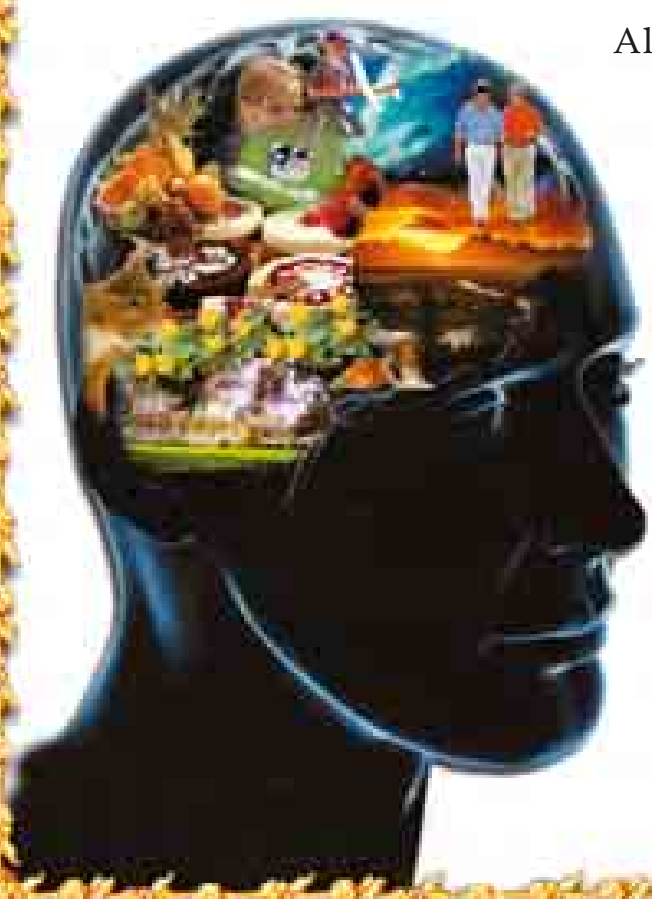
Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as

images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the brain? **There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose.** To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For **this consciousness is the spirit created by Allah,** which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty Allah, and fear and seek



We live our whole life in our brains. People we see, flowers we smell, music we hear, fruit we taste, the moisture we feel with our hands—all these are impressions that become "reality" in the brain. But no colors, voices or pictures exist there. We live in an environment of electrical impulses. This is no theory, but the scientific explanation of how we perceive the outside world.

refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A Materialist Faith

The information we have presented so far shows us that **the theory of evolution is incompatible with scientific findings.** The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evolutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that **the required intermediate forms have never existed.** So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are **blindly devoted** to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow com-

pel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine [intervention]...[37]

These are explicit statements that **Darwinism is a dogma** kept alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter brought life into being. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers, insects, trees, flowers, whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to ignorantly defend it just so as not to acknowledge, in their own eyes, the evident existence of Allah.

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice sees this evident truth: **All living beings are works of a Creator,** Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. **This Creator is Allah,** Who created the whole universe from non-existence, in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

The Theory of Evolution: The Most Potent Spell in the World

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any partic-

ular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of science or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically, and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of the Prophet Abraham (pbuh) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or some among the people of the Prophet Moses (pbuh) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, Allah has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verses, He reveals that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they

will not believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara, 6-7)

… They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A'raf, 179)

Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Surat al-Hijr, 14-15)

In the same way that the beliefs of people who worshipped crocodiles now seem odd and unbelievable, so the beliefs of Darwinists are just as incredible. Darwinists regard chance and lifeless, consciousless atoms as a creative force, and are as devoted to that belief as if to a religion.



Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible explanation for people from all over the world believing that unconscious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, in the Qur'an Allah relates the incident of the Prophet Moses (pbuh) and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told the Prophet Moses (pbuh) to meet with his own magicians. When the Prophet Moses (pbuh) did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

> **He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Surat al-A'raf, 116)**

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from the Prophet Moses (pbuh) and those who believed in him. However, his evidence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as revealed in the verse:

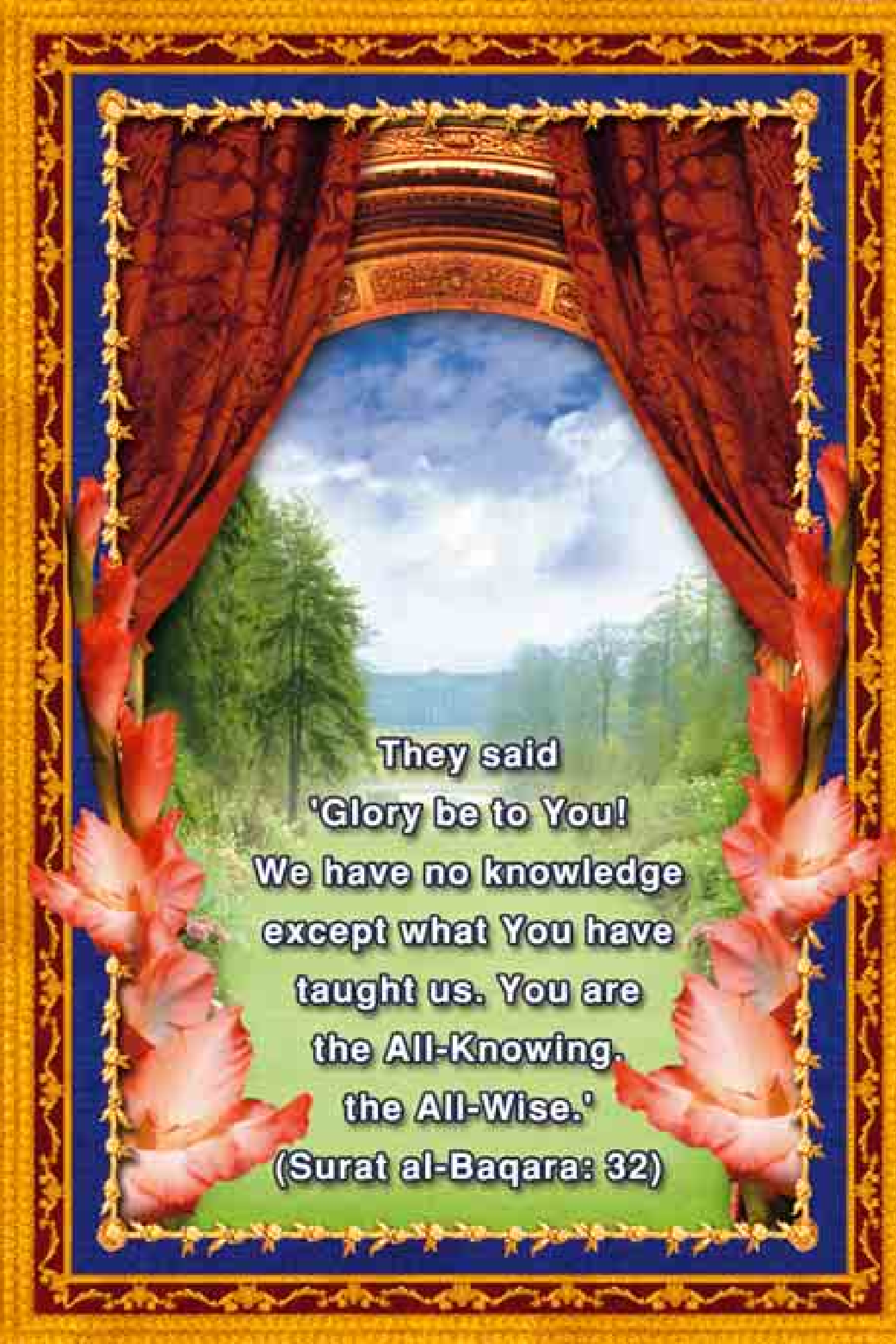
> **We revealed to Moses: "Throw down your staff." And it**

immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Surat al-A'raf, 117-118)

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, world-renowned British writer and philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge, who was an atheist defending evolution for some 60 years, but who subsequently realized the truth, reveals the position in which the theory of evolution would find itself in the near future in these terms:

I myself am convinced that **the theory of evolution**, especially the extent to which it's been applied, **will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future.** Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.[38]

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on **the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world.** That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.


They said
'Glory be to You!
We have no knowledge
except what You have
taught us. You are
the All-Knowing,
the All-Wise.'
(Surat al-Baqara: 32)

NOTES

1. In any publication dealing with Prophet Mohammed, his name or title is followed by the phrase "upon him be peace and blessings," to show our respect for him. A similar phrase is used for Prophets and other illustrious Muslims: "May Allah be pleased with him (or her)." However, as this practice might be distracting to non-Muslim readers, these phrases do not always appear in this book, on the understanding that they are assumed and that no disrespect is intended.

2. According to the Qur'an, Allah sent revelations to Prophets Moses, David, and Jesus. The Qur'an refers to these, respectively, as the Tawrah (Torah), the Zabur (Psalms), and the Injil (Gospel). Muslims believe that these books have lost their original forms and therefore the English translation of these words (Torah, Psalms and the Gospel) do not reflect the sense they are used in the Qur'an. Although the modern terms are used in the book to denote these revelations, the intent is to refer to their original form as described in the Qur'an.

3. "In the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, the period between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC to the conquest of Egypt by Rome in 30 BC. For some purposes the period is extended for a further three and a half centuries, to the move by Constantine the Great of his capital to Constantinople (Byzantium) in AD 330." (www.britannica.com)

4. The sacrificial practices performed in the Temple in Jerusalem are described in great detail in the books of Numbers and Leviticus. According to this source, the guts of the sacrificial animals had to be separated and burned according to strict rules. Allah revealed in the Qur'an how important this practices was to the Jews: "Allah has made a contract with us, that we should not believe in any Messenger until he brings us a sacrifice consumed by fire" (Surah Al 'Imran,183), Surat al-Baqara, 2:67-71 reveals that whenever the Jews were commanded to make a sacrifice, they would always probe for ever more details, and Allah would reveal these to them accordingly.

5. "Maimonides' Thirteen Principles of Jewish Faith;" www.qi-whiz.com/mizar/beliefs.html.
6. M. Asim Koksal, *Peygamberler Tarihi* (The History of Prophets), (Ankara: Koksal Yayincilik, 1990), pp. 334-35.
7. *Yuce Kuran'in Cagdas Tefsiri* (The Contemporary Tafsir of the Holy Qur'an) by Professor Suleyman Ates, Head of Department of Basic Islamic Sciences at Istanbul University's Faculty of Divinity, Vol. 2, pp. 49-50.
8. Elmalili Muhammad Hamdi Yazir, *Kuran-i Kerim Tefsiri* (Qur'an Tafsir); www.kuranikerim.com/telmalili/zuhruf.htm.
9. Muhammed Khalil Herras, *Fasl al-Maqal fi raf'i 'Isa hayyan wa nuzulihi wa qatlihi ad-Dajjal*, (Cairo: Makatabat as-Sunnah, 1990), p. 20.
10. Imam at-Tabari, *The Commentary of at-Tabari*, (Istanbul: Umit Yayincilik), 2:528; 1:247.
11. Ruqaiyyah Waris Maqsood, *A Basic Dictionary of Islam*, (New Delhi: Goodword Books, 2000), p. 153.
12. Imam Abu Hanifa, *Al-Fiqh al-Akbar*, http://muslim-canada.org/fiqh.htm.
13. *Sunan Ibn Majah*, (Istanbul: Kahraman Yayinlari, 1983), 10:338.
14. Ibn Khaldun, Mukaddime (*The Muqaddimah)*, (Istanbul: MEB, 1970), 2:137-39.
15.http://www.ahl-ul-bayt.org/Turkish/Books/04_adlet/002.htm
16. Said Havva, *Al-Asas fi't-Tafsir*, vol. 9, no. 445.
17. Al-Kattani, *Nazm al-Mutanathir min al-Hadith al-Mutawatir*, p. 147.
18. Sidney Fox, Klaus Dose, *Molecular Evolution and The Origin of Life,* W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco, 1972, p. 4.
19. Alexander I. Oparin, *Origin of Life,* Dover Publications, NewYork, 1936, 1953 (reprint), p. 196.
20. "New Evidence on Evolution of Early Atmosphere and Life," *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society,* vol 63, November 1982, 1328-1330.
21. Stanley Miller, *Molecular Evolution of Life: Current Status of the Prebiotic Synthesis of Small Molecules,* 1986, p. 7.
22. Jeffrey Bada, *Earth,* February 1998, p. 40.
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